2018 Pollination Survey Report

Dewey M. Caron and Ramesh Sagili

Oregon State University has conducted Pollination Economics surveys of large-scale commercial and semi-commercial beekeepers since 1986. A total of twenty-one survey responses were analyzed for the 2018 pollination season (twelve Oregon, eight Washington, and one Idaho beekeeper). The number of responses from Oregon and Washington beekeepers has been consistent for the past three survey years.

Total colony ownership of all the respondents combined was just under 76,000 colonies. These Oregon and Washington colony numbers represent 44 percent of the USDA NASS estimated colony numbers. These numbers are slightly up from 41 percent reported the previous year. Oregon and Washington commercial beekeepers averaged 6,772 colonies/individual (range 1040–18,800), and semi-commercial beekeepers averaged 185 colonies/individual (range 50–420). The total colonies owned by these respondents was 73,809. Overall, the twenty Oregon/Washington beekeepers included in this study reported over 148,000 crop rentals (up 30,000 from last year) on twenty different crops (two more than last year).

Sum of total value of pollination fee reported by the twenty Oregon and Washington respondents was just under $19 million dollars. The weighted averages since 2001 for almonds ($189 weighted average), tree fruits ($54.10), blueberry ($59.30), vegetable seed production ($61 west of Cascades, $101 for east), and squash & pumpkin ($58.70) are shown in Figure 1.

The latest pollination survey continues to illustrate the importance of pollination rentals for beekeepers in Oregon and Washington. The seven commercial Oregon beekeepers reported renting colonies to one or as many as fifteen different crops, averaging seven crop rentals/beekeepers. The semi-commercial beekeeper average was four colony rentals/person.

By far the largest fee generator for Oregon and Pacific Northwest beekeepers was California almond rentals, as has been the case for the last dozen years. Rental fee received for almonds ranged from $140 to $220, with a weighted average of $189, which is $5 above the previous year gross rental average. For Pacific Northwest beekeepers, almonds represent 79 percent of the total crop rental fee gross income.

Closer to home, Oregon beekeeper rental of colonies for fruit (pears, sweet cherries, and apples) remained the top “local” income opportunity. In 2018, over 29,000 colonies (40 percent of total yearly “local” pollination rentals) were in fruit orchards with an income of slightly over $1.5 million. Blueberry accounted for 30 percent of the “local” gross pollination fee, and vegetable seed pollination accounted for an additional 14 percent.

The range of rental prices reported by respondents was extensive. For example, pear and apple rental fee ranged from a low of $42 to a high of $65, for blueberry the...
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, fellow beekeepers.

I hope this message finds you and your bees well and on a great nectar and pollen flow. The old trope “location, location, location” could not be more true for beekeepers and honey bee colonies. A well-sited apiary can make a huge difference in the success of a colony and the success of an operation.

Over the last 22 years, I have definitely witnessed the quality of some of our bee yards deteriorate due to development, becoming surrounded by intensively managed monocultures. Here in Southern Oregon, we are slowly, but surely, becoming surrounded by grapes and hemp fields to name just a few. Please don’t get me wrong; I love wine, and hemp is destined to become a valuable agricultural commodity. However, this trend often causes me to ponder, what will the bee yards look like 30 years from now? Will there be enough quality forage to support a healthy honey bee diet and decent honey production in intensively farmed areas?

As we know from the work done at the OSU Honey Bee Lab, a diverse pollen diet definitely promotes healthier bees; therefore, one of the things I like to look for in a bee yard is the availability of diverse forage species that will not be heavily sprayed. Will there be enough sites like this to support the pollinators we will require to feed the world 30 years from now? Will there be enough quality forage to support a healthy honey bee diet and decent honey production in intensively farmed areas?

One large step in the right direction would be to dedicate one percent of our prime agricultural lands to pollinators. At first blush this may seem like a tall order, but there is a way this could be accomplished and well financed. The way this could happen is through the concept I like to call apivoltaics.

What is apivoltaics you may ask? Simply put, it is a branch of the science known as agrivoltaics, but specifically tailored to managing utility-scale solar sites for pollinator habitat and farming honey bees. The opportunity here is that, as our demand for energy increases, we will increasingly rely on photovoltaics to produce cheap, clean, local renewable energy, and the space in which this pollinator habitat can and should occur is on utility-scale solar fields on farmland.

According to Dr. Chad Higgins’s research at OSU (today.oregonstate.edu/news/solar-arrays-could-be-used-resources-plant-productivity-study-shows), we can produce all the energy we need on as little as one percent of existing farmland, and, as the research indicates, the most efficient production of electricity is in the agricultural belt due to topography and temperatures. There is potentially a huge up side here for honey bees and farmers. Leases on the land by solar companies can supplement farm income, and sites will be guaranteed to remain in legal farm use three or four decades at time.

Most importantly, future farm use on these sites will not be impaired because the solar arrays are designed from the ground up to be removable and recyclable. Requiring utility-scale solar to maintain these sites in pollinator habitat as a condition of approval helps us reach the important goals of preserving farmland, keeping farmland in legal farm use, and ensuring large tracts of great forage for generations of beekeepers to come.

This strategy has been deployed in at least four sites statewide, and so far the results are pretty amazing in terms of colony productivity. However, there are many regulatory hurdles pending that seek to limit solar on prime farmland and all class I and II soils. One such hurdle is being proposed by the Land Conservation and Development Commission to limit all solar to 12 acres or less on class I and II soils. We will never reach one percent for bees at this rate, and our pollinators would really benefit from at least that much farmland dedicated to quality forage.

Very rarely, if ever, are there opportunities for our bees to have prime ground devoted to farming them. If you are interested, I would encourage you to attend the LCDC hearing in Salem on May 23 at 9:00 am at 635 Capitol Street in Salem. Please check out Dr. Higgins’s research (journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0203256) and come support the adoption of rules that will allow some prime farmland dedicated to bees and help secure our food and energy future.

Lastly, while I am making requests, I would also like to encourage anyone with more than five colonies to register their apiary. The modest fee of 50 cents a colony helps fund research at the OSU Honey Bee Lab, which has been an amazing asset for our community and industry. This funding will help the bee lab to continue be an asset and help us meet current and future challenges to our honey bees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Jacob
Meeting was called to order by President John Jacob at 3:30 pm at Sowers Apiaries in Canby, Oregon.

In attendance: John Jacob (president), Joe Maresh (vice president), Karen Finley (secretary), Jan Lohman (chair, Grants and Foundations), Rosanna Mattingly, Marjie Ehry, Linda Zahl, Maarty Van Otterloo (Oregon South Coast association vice president), Rex McIntire (Portland Metro Beekeepers Association president), Mike Rodia (chair, Ag Liaison), and Tom Cinquini (Portland Metro regional representative).

Treasurer’s Report and Minutes
Karen Finley read the treasurer’s report prepared by Joe Hansen: OSBA had a net income of $4578.74 for the first quarter. The April 19 balance is $58,721 in total assets, including $29,811 in General Fund cash and $24,409 in Research Fund money. The OSBA is in fine financial shape, and the 2018 forms are off to the accountant, the state, and the IRS. His report and Minutes of the last meeting provided for review and as published in The Bee Line were approved.

Regional Representative and Association Reports
Portland Metro Beekeepers Association: Rex McIntire reported that they had over 90 beekeepers attend a successful Bee Day April 20, hosted by Foothills Honey Company in Colton. Presentations were made by Ramesh Sagili and Carolyn Breece of the OSU Honey Bee Lab, Andony Melathopoulos, and Jen Holt of Oregon Master Beekeepers. Donations and raffle made the group about $700.

Columbia County: Linda Zahl filled in the board on her efforts at forming a Columbia County, Oregon, beekeepers’ association in St. Helens. She asked to review constitutions and bylaws to align them with the OSBA/other groups. These are on the OSBA website. She can be contacted by interested OSBA members at: lindazah2@gmail.com.

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association: Maarty Van Otterloo said the Oregon South Coast beekeepers were getting impatient due to weather-delayed packages and queens. Jackson and Josephine Counties have had Oregon Bee Atlas trainings, and they want to have one in Curry County. The bee atlas is generating a lot of excitement from bee associations and other citizens, and 147 volunteers have collected over 20,000 bees statewide. Other states are wanting to copy Oregon’s program. The last survey of this kind was made in 1969. The Columbia County gang is also getting involved in the bee atlas project.

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association: They held their bee school on April 20.

Portland Metro Regional Representative: Tom Cinquini said things in the Portland Metro region have been pretty quiet, with no fires to put out in his area.

Grants and Foundations Report
Jan Lohman reported the status of the research funds at OSU Foundation. There was discussion of how the three funds managed by the OSU Foundation fund the OSU Honey Bee Lab and other state programs. Central Oregon Seed Growers (COSI) contribute a great deal to active research programs at OSU.

The 50 cents/hive registration initiated recently with ODA applies to all beekeepers who have five hives or more and is based on mid-summer hive counts. This mandatory ODA hive registration fee generates $30,000–$50,000 a year towards the bee program. Those beekeepers who have not paid their annual registration for 2019 are encouraged to do so; this program is very important to support Oregon beekeeping. Association officers are encouraged to spread the word and promote participation.

Agricultural Liaison Report
Mike Rodia still has 200–300 paper copies of the beekeeping guidelines available. They have been distributed to the state prison program, eastern Oregon, Willamette Valley, and at the April 20 Portland Metro Bee Day. The document can be also be downloaded online from OSU.

Mike is working with Sally Cook of the Salem City Council to get bee-positive rules passed. The planning commission is on board with this, and they are targeting rules for Marion County and Salem to be congruent. Honey bees were banned in the 1980s. In addition, he and others testified at LCDC hearings, emphasizing dual use/farm use value to beekeeping. The LCDC will hold a public hearing May 23 on the proposed amended rule (OAR 660-033-0130) tightening up the rules on counties issuing conditional use permits for solar arrays on farmland. The OSBA didn’t take a position on potential neonic or chloropyrifos bans proposed in the state legislature. Andony and Harry Vanderpool are taking the lead in communication and education with farm/urban groups, and have developed bee protection protocols for various crops/horticultural practices.

Old Business
Newsletter and Directory
Rosanna Mattingly reported on communications and asked for guidance from the board on a number of outstanding housekeeping issues. The directory will be published soon, and some of these items are published within.

–We changed the newsletter to a lighter paper to save on mailing costs; about 30 percent of members are digital subscribers.
–Dues haven’t been raised for a while. The board has current authority to raise dues, and, if an increase is decided, can have the general membership vote on the recommendation.

–The vendor area at conference shall be limited to conference attendees.

–A 15-day prior to conference cancellation refund policy for state meeting, and no show no refund was confirmed (exceptions may be made for some circumstances). This will need to go on the registration forms.

–We will print 50 extra copies of the directory for new/future members.

–Fairs and Exhibits language will be language associated with that chair’s title in the directory, as in the bylaws.

**Website**

–The board agreed OSBA may receive donations on the website.

–Online classified ads will be $10 per month, including ads for people who do removals.

–The OSBA website is getting a re-vamp and will include info on beekeeping regulations in different municipalities (with help from Mike Rodia), links to local groups, and a way to donate money through the website for research, education, and other projects.

–Rosanna asked where to direct certain requests. She fields a lot of email and phone calls, such as schools looking for speakers. Marjie Ehry agreed to take on some of questions/requests for Events. Jan agreed to take on questions that go to Leadership. The PR chair remains an unoccupied board position.

–John will follow up on the topic of veterinarian prescriptions required for foulbrood treatment with antibiotics with Carolyn Breece and the OSU diagnostic lab and the state veterinarians’ association.

**Affiliated Associations**

Rosanna and Jan have encountered problems managing the forms and records for affiliated groups and want to clean up the process. The board decided to ask each group to pay OSBA annually a fee of $1 per member in order to maintain OSBA affiliation. As a bylaws change, this will need to go before the membership at our state annual meeting. Also board will ask the affiliated groups to send a list of members, officers, and fee to OSBA, due December 31. Currently the presidents of affiliated groups are to be OSBA members. In the constitution/bylaws, only the president at this time—attending and with membership—has a vote. Maarty asked that it be specified in constitution/bylaws that officers can name a proxy to attend state board meetings and vote in their stead. We will discuss this at our next meeting.

**Membership**

Rosanna suggested and board concurred that OSBA go to an annual membership, expiring at end of the calendar year, instead of revolving. This will simplify the membership list, directory, etc. Membership will need to vote on this change at the annual meeting.

**New Business**

Bonnie King is the OSBA lead for the state fair. She needs help with the state fair. Contact her to help with this great booth effort.

Marjie Ehry will be Honey Judge for state meeting. She also noted Crook County Fair is soliciting honey entries.

The Western Apicultural Society meeting is July 12–14 in Ashland, Oregon.

**Next Meeting/Location**

A portion of the next OSBA meeting on June 29 at Monroe, Oregon, will be devoted to addressing and finalizing how OSBA and affiliated groups/regional representatives work together and streamlining communication. Any changes to OSBA bylaws require publishing in *The Bee Line* for a minimum 30 days, so items needing approval by the greater membership will be prepared then for vote at the October state meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Finley

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**Apiary Registration with ODA**

Every person who owns, or is in charge of, five or more colonies of bees located within the state or Oregon, must register each year with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The form needed to register colonies is located at: apps. oregon.gov/SOS/LicenseDirectory/LicenseDetail/606 or obtained in person by visiting: 635 Capitol Street NE, Salem, OR, 97301

The current cost of apiary registration is $10 with an additional charge of $0.50 per colony for five or more hives. After July 1, the registration fee will increase to $20. The fee per hive remains at $0.50 per colony for five or more hives.

The number of colonies that must be registered is equal to the highest number of full strength colonies managed within the state at any point during the previous year, prior to the registration deadline of June 1.

All money collected from apiary registration shall be spent on research at the OSU Honey Bee Lab predominantly focused on honey bees (honeybeelab.oregonstate.edu).
KEEPING BEES IN JUNE

Jan Lohman

Where is your hive going from here? 2019 has been on the wrong side of exceptional in many regions of Oregon. Our spring began as usual, but then the cold jumped back on us and slowed down the growth for hives. Everything seemed delayed from North Central California to Washington. This may help to slow down the swarming tendencies of your hives. Also, 2018 was an unforgettable year for Varroa mite problems, and many hives succumbed to the pressure from mites. We all vow to do better in 2019, but it is hard to know what the solution might be.

SWARMING

Unfortunately in beekeeping, swarming can be a deterrent to your honey production by splitting the population and eliminating the bees’ ability to gather surplus—like starting over! To prevent swarming, it is helpful to pull brood and bees from large, overpopulated hives to boost smaller colonies or to add a new colony or to build nucs for your use later in a failing hive. You can pull a frame with very young eggs, along with some honey and capped brood and surplus bees, and allow the new hive or nuc to raise their own queen, or you can purchase a queen.

HONEY FLOWS

Bees and flowers have an inevitable connection and honey plants seem to be regional in nature. Understanding when your honey flow happens and what plants are responsible are an important part of beekeeping. It is great to record the date and source of honey surplus for the first few years of beekeeping because there are similarities in years, but also swings in the date that each plant produces.

HARVESTING HONEY

Remove bees from supers with either fume boards, blowers, or escape boards, and be sure to cover your honey with lids and nets to prevent robbing. Uncapping knives are used to remove cappings, and a scratcher is handy to remove spots that the uncapping knife cannot reach. If you are using a small extractor, balance the weight of the frames so that it does not dance across the floor. Heating and straining your honey during extracting delays the onset of granulation.

ALL ABOUT THE HIVE!

1. Always know your Varroa levels.
2. Do an egg check on your hive to be sure that your queen is laying.
3. Replace poorly performing queens.
4. Keep records for your hive, including date, weather, Varroa levels, eggs seen, larvae, and queen cells.

Bee a Beekeeper, Not a Bee Haver!

Enjoy your Hive and Have a Great Summer.

BUZZ IN TO THE STATE FAIR!

Bonnie King

The 2019 Oregon State Fair’s theme is Find Your Fun, and we’ll focus on the fun of beekeeping in the OSBA booth this year. Before those eleven days in August, there is much preparation to do!

Our large banner will be hung diagonally this year, across the corner, so that people can see it from all corners of the building.

This year we will again have the opportunity to speak on stage in the Creative Living building. We are open to suggestions on interesting topics and speakers, so please email your ideas.

Volunteers from our beekeeping associations and the state association are the core of this long-lasting tradition at the fair. Every single day, probably every hour, fairgoers mention how many years they’ve been coming to our booth. We believe in tradition, and we want to make our booth as memorable as can be.

Please sign up to be a host in the booth! The shifts will be four hours this year, with up to four hosts in the booth per shift. Hosts receive entry tickets and parking passes. Outreach has already begun.

If you haven’t been contacted, please take the lead and email me directly. Sadly, with the loss of Fred Mann, we will need a new observation hive coordinator. We have two brand new observation hives, so it will be easier to swap them out each day. We also need nucs, so please keep that in mind!

It’s a terribly busy time of year, so if you can fit in a couple hours to help with set up and tear down, that would be fantastic. We’ll be setting up two days before the fair, and breaking down the day after the fair ends.

The honey bear costume is with Culbertson’s cleaning service in Salem, now being cleaned and repaired so he’ll be ready to buzz on into the fair and pass out seeds that will grow plants honey bees love. More details on competition, speakers, and booth creation will follow next month. Please contact Bonnie King at bonjking@gmail.com for information or to sign up for the fair!
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BEE EVENTS

June 17–23: Pollinator Week. Let us know your plans and how events have gone!

June 17–23: Forest Grove Raise the Vibration for Bees. Information: Nancy Hertert at arrownhertert@gmail.com.

June 22: Pollinator Festival – Dancing Oaks Nursery & Gardens, Monmouth.


Regional Associations
Central Oregon Beekeepers
Aaah. We're finally here. Flowers are blooming everywhere, the fruit trees didn't freeze while in bloom, the hives that made it through the winter are booming, and we're finally not needing to wear a coat out to the apiary. We're looking forward to hearing the outcomes of the colony loss survey for our area in comparison to the rest of the state. The suspicion is there were high losses this year when we had our deep snow and longer period of cold weather. Maybe too high of mite loads. Additionally, although we have several package and nuc suppliers with which we've had great success in the past, due to the bad weather in the almonds, our members are experiencing delays in colony replacements... So it goes. Finally, we have been able to continue our outreach both with the local master gardener program as well as with demonstrations at local schools.

We had a great talk about splits and swarms in May. Future talks will be announced on Facebook and our website: www.cobeekeeping.org.

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers
The Bee Season is flying by, no pun there! After a devastating winter and spring loss of hives, the girls are seen on flowers, shrubs, and trees around the Columbia Gorge. Excitement for sure!

At our May meeting, Andony Melathopoulos demonstrated the introduction of a Queen to one of the Hood River Extension hives. This was followed by a great rendition concerning honey comb frames—what to dispose of and which to keep within the hive. Vital information for every beekeeper. We are blessed to have Dr. Dewey Caron, who will be sharing his vast knowledge of Varroa sampling and treatments at our premeeting, followed by a review of the Pacific Northwest Honey Bee Survey intermingled with “What’s Your Plan” covering the summer and fall months.

The board continues to be in awe of the short life of the association's existence, its membership growth, and the blessings of so many willing to travel long distances to share their knowledge with us. Membership continues to grow as more hobbyists discover our presence.

Douglas County Bees
Douglas County Bees has been busy! We have had several calls for swarms and removals this year already. Removals are always fun because there are no two alike. We have a very active membership with removals, and it is always appreciated. Unfortunately, there were a lot of losses in Douglas County

Regional Representatives
North Coast
I was in Peru over the last two weeks. When I came back, it looked like the plants in my yard had literally exploded, leading me to surmise that I must have missed some pretty great weather. After checking with some area beekeepers, it sounds as though colonies in general are flourishing and taking every advantage of any forage that is available now. Spring is such an exciting time in beekeeping, a new beginning, a time to try out some of those techniques and ideas collected during winter research that one is sure will help make this year the best ever.

I was secretly hoping that I might be able to meet a beekeeper while I was there, but, although they use quite a bit of honey, our guide did not seem to have any idea where it came from.

Kathy Cope

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Jerry Frazier

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this last year, but we are hoping that swarms and removals help to restore those losses for a stellar year.

We have had a lot of great events this year and more to come. In April and May, we had the Earth Day and Energy Fair, Glide Wildflower Show, Master Gardeners Plant Sale, and the Mothers Day Plant Sale & Breakfast, which we put on this year for a fundraising event. Each of the events had an observation hive, honey sticks, and wildflower seeds for pollinators, which we have recently starting giving out as well. All to benefit education and knowledge about bees.

Ivory LosBanos

Klamath Basin Beekeepers
Here in the Klamath Basin, winter ended a couple of weeks ago, fast forwarded through spring, and we’re starting some summery days. We're finally getting our packages and nucs on Saturday the 11th for all the association members who ordered them. Our education officer, Katharina Davitt, has started her third year of teaching about bees to 3rd and 4th graders in Klamath Basin schools with three 4th-grade classes. She has at least 55 classes scheduled for the next two months. Our association will be at the Winter Wings Migratory Bird Day event on the 18th of May. The May association meeting will probably be a field day to help reinforce necessary skills for new beekeepers.

Paul Davitt

Lane County Beekeepers
Beekeeping season is finally in full swing in Lane County, and we are loving every minute of the beautiful weather. Our members have been busy hiving their new packages and nucs as well as splitting hives and requeening our hives that overwintered.

The Lane County beekeepers had a great presence at the Bee Weekend at GloryBee on April 26th & 27th. We spoke to many new beekeepers who will be joining us for the education they need as a beginner.

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Some upcoming events include our annual pollinator week. The 2019 National Pollinator Week is June 17–21. Lane County Beekeepers will have a table at the “Schools Out Carnival” at Emerald Park from 2 to 5 PM on Friday, June 21. The club will host a table to share the important work of pollinators in our world.

Another fun upcoming event will be our annual field day. Every other year we combine our field day event with the members of the Linn Benton Beekeepers Association. We will be having our combined field day on Sunday, June 23, from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM at the OSU Apiary located at the Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture. The address is 844 SW 35th St in Corvallis. We hope you are enjoying this exciting time of the beekeeping year.

Linn Benton Beekeepers
From wet, cold rain to remarkable warm, dry weather in May, you must wonder what the bees are thinking in the Willamette Valley. If we are lucky, they are thinking about expanding their brood nest area to take advantage of the spring nectar flow, and we are thinking, I sure hope I remembered to take my allergy medication.

This month our association does not have a regular monthly speaker. Instead, we are co-hosting a members’ only “Field Day” with Lane County beekeepers on June 23 at the OSU Apiary. The event runs from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Space is limited because of the number of hives available for inspection, so sign up early to get one of the spaces. In the morning, we will have three presentations: “Varroa Biology,” “Varroa Medication,” and “Judging Frames of Wax.” We will then take a short lunch break; box lunches will be available for purchase at the time of submitting registration online. They will not be available to purchase the day of the event. After the lunch break, we will split into groups and get into the hives at the apiary. You will be led by an experienced beekeeper, who will show you the things you should be looking for while inspecting your hives. Experienced beekeepers attending will be getting into hives that are having issues.

To attend, each person will be required to sign an OSU Waiver and Assumption of Risks Agreement OSU OSBA 2019. Please print it out, sign it and bring it the day of the event. Things to bring: Veil, jacket or suit, gloves, and a lawn chair. Registration forms can be found at: www.lbba.us/2019-lbba-lcba-field-day.

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association
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Jay Evans, USDA-Beltsville
George Hansen, Foothills Honey Company
Brandon Hopkins, Washington State University
Melanie Kirby, Washington State University
Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon State University
Garth Mulkey, GS3 Quality Seeds Inc
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**Oregon Prison Beekeepers**

*Bees Buzzing on Wing*
*Flying Little Honey Makers*
*Stung My Ear, Painful*

Haiku by Dan Martin, staff member in the Apprentice program at South Fork Forest Camp, who was stung by a bee prior to getting his suit and veil on.  

Chad Naugle

**Oregon South Coast Beekeepers**

The “wet” has certainly taken its toll on honey bees coming out of winter this year. Moisture, mold, etc., have been factors that local (southern coastal Oregon) beekeepers have had to deal with following the recent extended wet winter. Surprisingly, the change in weather was like a switch being thrown. Nearly overnight, we went from deluge to dry and . . . well, not quite hot, but certainly warm. Finally, we can get to cleaning things up in the hives. The bees that survived the winter certainly seem to be appreciating the better weather.

Our association received our package bees on May 5. Too late for some blooms, but just in time for others. We’re hoping that the bees can catch up after a delayed start. Supplemental feeding is a must for the new packages. Watch for signs of early swarming (if they don’t like their new digs) or signs of robbing (if you have existing colonies that still have leftover winter honey reserves).

We’re due to receive our nucleus colonies from the Cave Junction area in mid-May. We’re looking forward to a localized comparison of how the bees from various sources fare this year on the southern Oregon coast.

Our association has purchased some new bee-related items for display at the 2019 Curry County Fair coming up in July. Vice President Maarty Van Otterloo attended the recent OSBA board meeting. He will brief us on that meeting at our May regional meeting.

**Portland Metro Beekeepers**

Quick transition from spring to mid-summer! Remember to keep water available for the girls; check for adequate food; keep eagle eye out for mites and treat. Considering this is prime time for increasing hive activity, especially egg laying/population increase and thoughts of splits, etc., my favorite book is still *Increase Essentials* by Lawrence J Connor.

Portland Metro arranged for nucleus hives in early April for members, gained greater understanding of brood diseases affecting hives from Carolyn Breece at the member meeting, and finished the month with Bee Day, an annual event held at the Hansen Foothills Honey Company to update beekeepers on various facets of beekeeping, along with hands-on hive inspections with experienced beekeepers. My favorite classroom topic was the exercise designed to evaluate comb. Teams of five or so folks examined each of the sixteen frames of comb to determine if it should be kept or culled. Great exercise; I would like to expand this as part of a regular member meeting.

Our May meeting covered “Bee Nutrition” with Ellen Topitzhofer, followed by “Attracting Pollinators” with Sherry Sheng, Master Gardener. Both speakers provided excellent information, including relevant resources (e.g., research from OSU) for further study. Just a couple of points to pass along (and there are many more!): Per Ellen, bees need water for evaporative cooling to maintain colony temperature and humidity, to reliquify crystallized honey and obtain micronutrients; they do not drink water, and they prefer “dirty” water. The photo of some moss floating on water in a shallow container was sufficient for me to make changes in our water supplies. Per Sherry, seriously consider early spring and late-autumn plant material to assist not only honey bees but also native pollinators. The presentations were so full, there was basically no time for questions.

On May 18, PMBA volunteers will take part in the Oregon City Farmers Market with an observation hive, beekeepers on hand to answer questions, and lots of information to hand out. Most fun is interacting with the kids who are always fascinated with the bees.

I must say it was delightful to watch my girls buzzing all over the paperbark maple in one corner of the yard this past week. Not so nice when I evidently strayed onto the path to the water source (the kids wading pool, now “retired”). Ow! She stung my ear!

Nancy Winston

**Portland Urban Beekeepers**

Spring is merging into summer with some very warm and dry conditions in the Portland area. We have reached high temperatures of 90°F; the bees are flying, and some are swarming! The new PUB Swarm Hotline is in full gear, and functioning (with a little help from our tech friends). There are a few kinks, but they are getting worked out as they crop up.

Everything seems to be blooming around town, and those that I have noticed include: poppies, nettle, lavender, bellflower, thyme, rosemary, allium, clematis, wisteria, blueberry, heather, and ceanothus, just to name a few.

Our May meeting was well attended, with about 45 people present, six of whom were new to the association. Our speaker was Rex Roberton, who talked to us about the history and techniques of bee hunting. He took us back to ancient Rome and brought us up to the present, introducing Tom Seeley, for those who were not familiar with his work. Rex showed us equipment and techniques to catch individual bees from flowers, how to dye them, and how to follow them back to their colony. It was interesting...
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to see how little the art has changed over the centuries and continues to be a pastime for those with plenty of time, patience, and persistence.

We will be presenting a table at a science fair on the Oregon Health & Sciences campus in June.

On June 11, we will be drinking beer, cider, and soda at Hopworks Urban Brewery, who will donate a percentage of sales that day to PUB.

Cheryl Wright

**Tualatin Valley Beekeepers**

The beekeepers in TVBA have been busy catching swarms and losing swarms from their own beehives. Our engineer- and scientist-type beekeepers are talking about artificial intelligence (AI) use for our hive sensors. Experienced beekeepers are helping newer beekeepers to install their new nucs and manage Varroa mite treatments after a successful nuc distribution. Our concerns echo other beekeepers in our state regarding winter losses, pesticide use, and competition from all the fake honey sold in stores. We continue with our community outreach, teaching locally about pollinators to Girl Scout troops, elementary school garden clubs, and outdoor class groups.

We are supporting a local group working with City of Hillsboro staff to adopt a Resolution to make Hillsboro a Bee City USA (www.beecityusa.org). The City Council will review the proposed Resolution on June 18. And we are about to challenge ourselves by jumping into new group membership management software. Wish us luck!

Debby Garman & Eddie Frie

**Washington State Beekeepers are now protected from civil liability thanks to House Bill 1133 which recently passed the state legislature and was signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee on May 7.**

To be protected under the law, beekeepers must register with the state Department of Agriculture as beekeepers and abide by all city, town, or county ordinances regarding beekeeping. These rules usually relate to the placement of hives or how many hives can be hosted per square foot or per acre. A beekeeper would not be protected if it is determined that the beekeeper acted with gross negligence or willful misconduct.

The idea for the bill came from a Puget Sound beekeeper who suggested beekeepers should have some liability protection under law. The Washington State Beekeepers Association (WASBA) legislative team researched the topic and found that Virginia and West Virginia have laws limiting beekeeper liability, but their laws require observing a large list of rules written by their state departments of agriculture. “We felt Washington beekeeping is so diverse, from folks who have one hive in their backyard to those who operate commercially with thousands, that no single set of rules could properly regulate all the beekeepers,” said Tim Hiatt, WASBA legislative chair. “So we pushed for and achieved a law that says beekeeping, on the face of it, is protected from liability, under certain reasonable circumstances.”

Beekeeping is protected in agricultural areas under the state’s right-to-farm law (RCW 7.48.305) only as far as such activities are “reasonable” and not a “nuisance” or to cause “substantial adverse effect” on the public. The standard for beekeepers under the new law is that their beekeeping may not constitute “gross negligence or willful misconduct.” The new law will appear in RCW 15.60.

“This success represents two years of grassroots efforts from the beekeepers of Washington state,” said Hiatt. “They are to be congratulated for their advocacy on behalf of bees and beekeepers. And they can now rest assured from the threat of lawsuits.” The law, as signed by the Governor, can be found at:

Auction Items, Please!

We raise money for research every year through a silent auction and a benefit auction at the fall conference. All monies raised are placed in the OSBA Research Fund, much of which is distributed to the OSU Honey Bee Lab, along with elsewhere, the following year. None of this would happen without those who manage the auctions, those who bid on auction items, and those who contribute the items that are the foundation of the auctions. We ask again this year that you please snag unused goods from your cupboards, closets, garages, and basements—and that you use your creativity and skill in making such items as the sweet baby quilt that has been donated for the upcoming conference (upper left). All items—whether bee related or not!—are welcome.
Judy Scher, of Lane County Beekeepers Association and Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, gave a talk/demo on making lotion and salad bowl oil at the 2018 OSBA Conference. The attendees’ interest and input made this very lively and fun. First, a “propolis appreciation” talk consisted of how and why honey bees collect and use propolis. After that, Judy described how she collects, purifies, and reconstitutes raw propolis to a desired concentration. This was followed by a live demo on making a lotion using beeswax and propolis. There was time to also demo a very simple recipe for salad bowl oil using beeswax and mineral oil.

**Bee Oil Recipe for Wooden Utensils**
This may be applied to kitchen woodenware like wooden bowls, wooden spoons, and wood cutting boards. It’s non-toxic. Smear it on the item, then rub it vigorously with a cloth for a shiny new look. This recipe makes about 16 ounces (1 pound).

**Ingredients**
- 1.5 cups (355 ml) mineral oil
- 2.5 ounces (71 g) beeswax

**Preparation**
- Be careful when heating and blending the oil and beeswax—it’s flammable!
- Use a double boiler. In the top pan, add the ingredients.
- Stir until the beeswax melts and the mixture is blended, and then remove from heat.

To use propolis in your recipe, calculate the weight of the oils. Of this weight, 3 percent is the amount of propolis to use. Do this for any of the lotion recipes you find online or in books. Add the measured amount of propolis to the hot oils (“hot” is around 150°F to keep the beeswax melted) and whisk with a stick blender. As the oil is whisked, slowly add the measured water. The water must be warm—around 110–120°F. When thickened, continue to blend with container over a cool water bath until it holds its shape. Ladle into the jars and let it sit overnight.

There are many recipes online, just google *simple lotion recipes*. Judy’s recipe used in the class is based on “Karen’s Buttercream” from Majestic Mountain Sage (around 30 recipes): [www.thesage.com/recipes/recipe-exec/State/ListRecipes/cat/Lotions](http://www.thesage.com/recipes/recipe-exec/State/ListRecipes/cat/Lotions).
Oregon State Beekeepers Association

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND AFFILIATED REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

**Columbia Gorge Beekeepers**
Meets 6:15–8:15 PM, third Wednesday, Hood River
President: Jerry Frazier—jerry1.frazier@gmail.com
Website: gorgebeekeepers.org

**Coos County Beekeepers**
Meets 6:30 PM, third Saturday, Myrtle Point
President: Randy Sturgill—541.430.4095; 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 Saturday, Eugene
President: Mike France—michaelj62@gmail.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: Mike France—michaelj62@gmail.com
Website: www.lcbaor.org

**Portland Metro Beekeepers**
Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Gladstone
President: Rex McIntire—503.720.7958
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: Risa Halpin—303.807.1830; rhalpin906@aol.com
Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org

**Tillamook Beekeepers**
Meets 6:30–8:00 PM, second Tuesday, Tillamook
President: Brad York—dbradleyyork@gmail.com
Website: www.tillamookbeekeepers.org

**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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**Vice President**
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**Secretary**
Karen Finley—541.753.4120; finleykk@yahoo.com

**Treasurer**
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**Past President**
Harry Vanderpool—503.399.3675; shallotman@yahoo.com

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**Southwestern Oregon**
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**North Willamette Valley**
Steven Coffman—503.838.2981

**South Willamette Valley**
Tim Wydron—541.740.4127; tim@aldercreekhoney.com

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**REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**Central Coast Beekeepers**
Meets 6:30 PM, fourth Wednesday, Newport
President: Jon Sumpter—jonsmptr@msn.com
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

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Oregon State Beekeepers Association
Membership Application

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is a nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. Membership includes the ongoing work of the organization on behalf of the honey bee and beekeeping, a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, and an annual directory and subscription to The Bee Line.

Please send check made payable to OSBA with a completed form for each individual to:

Oregon State Beekeepers Association, Membership
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd, Ste 517, Portland, Oregon 97206

Date: ________________________  New Member  Membership Renewal
First Name:___________________ MI:___ Last Name:_____________________

Company name: ____________________________________________________________

Type:  □ Small scale (less than 25)  □ Sideliner (25–300)  □ Commercial (more than 300)

Mailing address:____________________________________________________________

City:____________________________ State:__________ Zip:________________

Telephone number: ________________ e-mail address: ________________

Newsletter: Please select version: □ Digital  □ Print  County: ______________________

Membership Directory: The OSBA respects the privacy of members. Please indicate contact information to be included in a directory mailed to OSBA members only:

□ Do not include contact information

□ Share all information OR Share: □ mailing address  □ phone number  □ e-mail address

Local group, if member: ______________________________________________________

Membership dues: $40 per person ($50 per person outside the US) $__________

Voluntary contribution(s):

       General Fund  $__________
       Research Fund $__________

Total amount enclosed: $__________

Note: To renew or join online, please visit:

Thank you!
To join or renew membership by mail, see form on page 17; online, go to orsba.org and click on Join OSBA!

If the date on the mailing label is June 2019 (or earlier), this is your friendly renewal notice.

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**The Bee Line**

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

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

The next issue to be printed will be the **July** issue, 2019. The deadline for submitting copy is **June 10, 2019**. Please let me know if you find difficulties with the deadline so we can work out the space and timing for the material.

*Be well!*

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