



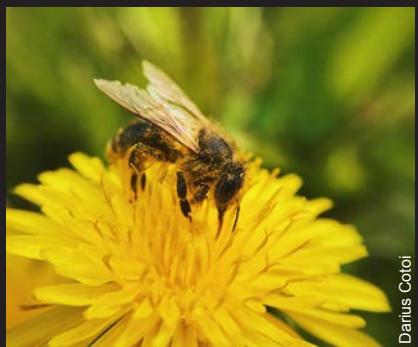
# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 44

Number 8

September 2019



## 2019 Western Apicultural Society Conference | Ashland, Oregon

*Rick Olson*

During the Western Apicultural Society Conference in Ashland July 12–14, Dr. Marla Spivak and Dr. Meghan Milbrath updated us on the changing understanding of honey bees, spoke of pathogens and disease transmission risk, and gave us some thoughts on working towards treatment free beekeeping. The key being: We aren't there yet but "working towards" that goal.

The hurdles of beekeeping are greater and more difficult than ever before—disease pressure changes every year. There is pathogen and viral spill over on flowers between species, even to ants. As we know, all bees are important—honey bees as well as native bees. Dr. Spivak raised some interesting questions: Do we want unlimited back yard beekeepers? Do we want unrestricted movement of bees in nucs, packages, and queens, and unrestricted movement onto public lands? How do we balance economics with honey bee health?

There are no laws extending to the ethical and moral treatment of invertebrates. It does not result in the greater good to not treat honey bees—you wouldn't let a sick animal slowly die without treatment. Complicating the issue is that research has indicated that such viruses as DWV have been transferred to bumble bees, though the pathology is not known at this time. Are we ready for honey bees to be demonized? How do we cull diseased hives to restrict pathogen transmission?

Native bees need their day in the sun, so we shouldn't pit bee against bee. A better way would be to extend ethics to all animals in human care. It is not good animal care to let bees die every year. Through breeding, stock selection, and treatment, we can evolve more-resistant bees.

Viral spill over to native bees and the elimination of diseased honey bees through the "live or let die" paradigm may need revisiting. The future of bees is not sustainable with the current level of disease transmission. A treatment-free regime should not come at the expense of bees, bee keepers, or the environment. We need to decouple breeding from management. Letting bees die of Varroa mites is not management. Control of disease has to be maintained while working on permanent resistance. What we need is a system of epidemic mitigation while working towards genetic advancement. Other epidemics, such as tracheal mites and AFB, were brought under control in this way.

We don't develop resistance by exposure—a dog will never learn to drive by placing him behind the steering wheel of a truck. Resistance is developed in a stepwise fashion and takes time. If the disease pressure is too high, resistance will be lost for that colony when it collapses. Migration or movement of colonies does not allow for natural selection through evolution. The intersection of three things, the host, vector, and pathogen is called the *nidus* of pathogen transmission, and leads to epidemic. Since we don't have anti-viral drugs, our only option is to treat the vector—Varroa. Dr. Milbrath emphasized the use of locally raised hygienic queens, good nutrition, brood breaks, and treatment, which must be used for now if we are to get to treatment-free beekeeping.

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**Image above:** A honey bee with telling frayed wings contributes to this year's harvest as we celebrate *National Honey Month* this month. The National Honey Board worked with the USDA to provide this recognition of honey and the work of bees in 1989.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, fellow beekeepers. Another changing of the seasons is upon us. September is one of my favorite times of the year with all the fall colors and harvest season. One of the best things about being a commercial beekeeper is how much our jobs change with the seasons. Right about the time you get tired of grafting and cell building, it is time to do something else like winterizing hives. Just when can't think about slinging another gallon of syrup or patty, it is time to shift gears again and bring bees to their winter grounds and start thinking about almond pollination. Safe to say that beekeepers never get bored. It seems there is always another challenge around the corner.

A relatively new challenge we beekeepers are facing is Oregon's hemp boom. Of the 48,000 acres being grown in Southern Oregon, I know of only one farmer using blooming cover crops. Most of the pear orchards here have been cleared to make way for hemp and grapes, two crops that are not particularly good for bees. It's getting tougher to find good bee yards that are not surrounded by monocultures. Most forecasts suggest that this is just the tip of the iceberg and to expect the amount of ground in hemp cultivation to at least quadruple. Expect a field near you someday soon. Hemp is a wind-pollinated plant and makes no nectar, contrary to some of the Internet myths going around. Hemp is dioecious, meaning plants are either male or female. Males are rarely, if ever, intentionally grown, so we do not even have an opportunity for bees to gather pollen because it is the female plants that are valuable and cultivated. This is very unfortunate because hemp pollen is about 30 percent protein. The last thing we want to see is hundreds of thousands of acres become pollinator wastelands. It's tough enough out there already.

A great solution to this problem would be for the hemp industry to adopt the profitable and sustainable practice of cover cropping. Not only is cover cropping better for our pollinators, it also makes economic sense for the growers. Any decent cover cropping system will make growers more money by reducing inputs in the long run and increasing yields. Legumes are excellent nitrogen fixers and significantly improve soil health. Cover crops also reduce pest issues by attracting beneficial insects. Other benefits include less erosion and reduced runoff. The hemp industry is still relatively new and learning as it goes, so it is incumbent upon us to do our best to educate every grower we know. Here is a quick link with some great information that every grower should be aware of: [www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition/Text-Version/Benefits-of-Cover-Crops](http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition/Text-Version/Benefits-of-Cover-Crops).

With fall in the air, I am really looking forward to our fall conference October 25th through the 27th on the coast in Florence. Joe and the team have done an amazing job and have put together an excellent lineup that looks to be both informative and entertaining. Special thanks to all of you who have helped to make this happen. It seems like time is really flying by. There are only 5.3 brood cycles left until we hit the winter solstice, so make the most of it and grow some bees with low mite counts. A good burst of clean brood this month will go a long way towards successfully overwintering your colonies. We have been feeding pollen sub since the summer dearth hit in July. If there is ever a time when you would want really fat bees full of life-extending vitellogenin, that time is now.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the conference. Happy beekeeping.

*John Jacob*

### Establishments Offering Special Rates to OSBA Fall Conference Attendees, October 25–27

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*Deadline:* September 2, 2019

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*Deadline:* October 10, 2019

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## GLEANINGS FROM THE WAS CONFERENCE

*Rebecca Fain*

Rick has done a great job of covering the philosophical issues raised at this year's meeting [page 1], and I want to share some of the management ideas I came away with:

### Hillary Kearney

❖ Consider “renting” a hive to folks who want the ambiance of bees in their garden to pollinate plants and trees but who really do not want the job of managing the hive. This way the bees get properly cared for and have a much better chance of survival.

❖ When looking for the queen in the hive, focus on the frame where there are a significant number of bees walking around the top of the frame. The queen will probably be on this frame or the one on either side.

### Dr. Meghan Milbrath

❖ Making late-season splits is not necessarily the death knell for the hive, but a way to increase an apiary while introducing desirable genetics and performing mite control with a brood break. It's all about getting a strong, well bred queen, providing proper nutrition, and maintaining the hive in a nuc over winter to eliminate excess area to heat and to keep stores near the cluster.

### Dr. Judy Wu-Smart

❖ Use honey bee research to improve your beekeeping. This includes sources from Google Scholar as well as journals.

❖ To move bees off of an area of the brood without agitating them, gently touch bees with your open palm and they will move away. Nurse bees don't sting!

❖ When looking for eggs, look for the glossy reflection of royal jelly in the cell.

❖ A young queen may lay more than one egg in a cell, particularly if space is limited, so don't panic should you see this happen.

❖ Older purpled-eyed brood will have cappings that are thinner and darker.

❖ If the brood area is back filled with nectar, replace with drawn comb, not foundation.

❖ Bees may be reluctant to cross through a queen excluder. Shake some bees above the excluder to get them used to it.

❖ Bring technology into your apiary. If you are having difficulty seeing eggs, take a picture of brood with your cell phone and then enlarge it to look for eggs.

❖ Pollen entombed in cells with propolis will be hard and dark in color. It is low in nutrition and/or may have high levels of pesticides.

❖ Migrating stress on colonies can cause the manifestation of such diseases as chalkbrood.

❖ Powdered sugar irritates bees and causes them to heat up, which dislodges Varroa mites.

## APOCALYPSE – BEES AND NOW BUGS, TOO?

*Dewey M. Caron*

In the July *Bee Line*, I discussed losses of backyard and commercial beekeepers over the last 10 years. This past winter, backyard colony losses equaled the highest they have ever been (48%), and Oregon commercial losses (37%) were much higher than in previous years. The trend lines of both were parallel and sloped upward, illustrating ever-increasing winter colony losses. Nationally, the Bee Informed Partnership survey reported the heaviest bee losses in the 13-year survey (38% nationally).

What is happening? Why the continuing heavy overwintering losses? What are we not doing correctly in our bee care?

I was among the individuals joining in the coining the term *Colony Collapse Disorder* (CCD) in the fall of 2006. When we gathered at the Austin American Beekeeping Federation meeting in January 2007, we requested that the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) survey beekeepers to understand the scope of these sudden losses. That survey found beekeepers (mainly commercial) experiencing a 32 percent winter loss; the subsequent 2007–2008 winter period, an AIA survey found losses even higher (35% loss).

With news of a “new” malady with these surveys and still again last winter, beekeepers find themselves in the media spotlight. Losses were double or more what beekeepers used to experience in normal winters or felt acceptable. The rapidity of decline of strong, thriving colonies was alarming. The individual stories of heavy losses (some individuals losing 80% of colonies) were really hard to listen to at winter meetings.

The losses really hit me hard, too. When I took students to the University of Delaware teaching apiary in the spring of 2007 for our wintering lab, I found 11 of 12 colonies dead—with no bees, but lots of honey and bee bread stores. There were no dead clusters or dead bees on the bottom board, i.e., what “normal” winter losses might resemble.

*Time* Magazine has coined the term *bee-pocalypse*; other media added *beemageddon* with their coverage of the high bee losses. Populations of other bee species and pollinators are also in apparent decline. In honey bees, the syndrome initially implicated in the high losses, CCD, has now been joined/replaced by mites and virus epidemics (bee PMS), lack of clean forage, Nosema, pesticides, and other factors. All such terms signal stressed honey bees in poor health.

Coincidentally, have you noticed fewer “bugs” on the windshield, less moths in the house, or fewer non-pestiferous insects in your yard? Fast forward and now, after several studies and observations, the media are reporting an insect *apocalypse* as

*Continued on page 5*





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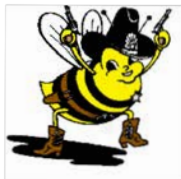
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## KEEPING BEES IN SEPTEMBER

*Ken Ograin*

It is becoming more important for you to pay more attention to your bees in September, with focus on mites, nutrition, and yellowjackets. If you do not get on top of these now, you will most likely lose more bees over winter. High mite loads mean less healthy bees, which then leads to less fat bees, which then leads to weaker hives and make it a field day for yellowjackets.

So, what can you do? In this order, monitor mites and keep levels under thresholds; keeping mites under threshold levels will ensure plenty of healthy bees. Next monitor food stores; feed heavy syrup until they stop taking it. Monitor your landing board for bees returning with pollen; if your hive is not getting enough pollen, it is going to lead to less fat bees. Dr. Caron resent an article about hives in urban vs agricultural settings that points to the fact that urban bees do not get enough nutrition vs hives in agricultural settings. Feeding a pollen substitute may be a good idea for hives in the urban and suburban areas. Dr. Sagili recommends using a substitute with at least 4 percent real pollen. Better Bee is one source for irradiated pollen.

Review *Tools for Varroa Management* and *Varroa Management Decision Tool* for the latest information on Varroa thresholds and treatment options. You will find these on the Honey Bee Health Coalition's website: [honeybeehealthcoalition.org](http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org).

Next let's look at yellowjackets, The best thing is to be proactive starting in the winter by eliminating hibernating queens in and around bee sheds or anywhere you have stored equipment. Next, in early spring, have a good pheromone trap. I use the Rescue trap designed to use the 10-week Yellowjacket Attractant Cartridge; this past spring, using this trap, I collected more than 200 queens. The best thing about this trap is that it keeps on working well past the 10 weeks; those queens that were trapped make for a great attractant for workers when they start foraging. In August, my trap was filled ½ inch from the top.

So, if you did nothing in the spring, about the only thing you can do now is to use entrance reducers and traps designed for yellowjacket workers. The Rescue disposable traps work better for me than any of the others. Simple to use, just keep an eye on the water level. I find that hot weather will cause water to evaporate in about 2 weeks.

September is also time for the Pollinator Partnership Mite-A-Thon. Please consider participating at: Pollinator Partnership, [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) [see page 12.]. These data are very helpful in determining how and what we are doing with mite controls. The more samples, the better the data.

For honey supers and frames stored for protection from wax

moth, depending on the method you used, it may be time to check to be sure you have killed all stages; eggs and pupae, both can be hatching and doing damage to frames and comb. The USDA recommends freezing honey frames for 24 hours at zero degrees. I find that it takes more than 24 hours to reduce frame temperature to zero, so I leave my frames in the freezer for at least 3 days.

If your hives are easily accessible, monitor the landing boards for flight activity, yellowjackets, and pollen coming in, and while you are there heft the back of the hive for weight. I have found that stores can drop rapidly in early October. If you are able go out to your hives early in the day, yellowjackets fly at lower temps than honey bees.

And finally, a little reminder about safety. Dry grass and hot smokers can and do cause fires. Pay attention to where you set that smoker. September can have several hot days, so keep hydrated, and if you are working alone be sure to let someone know and carry your cell phone.

### Apocalypse—Continued from page 3

front-page news. In addition to bees and pollinators, studies have documented fewer ladybugs, moths, butterflies, stream insects, and ground beetle populations. And not just in our intense agricultural or urban environments, but also in wilder, more isolated places like Puerto Rico's mountains, German forests, and the Amazon basin ([www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320718313636](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320718313636)). As with bees, the question is how much fewer, and for what reasons?

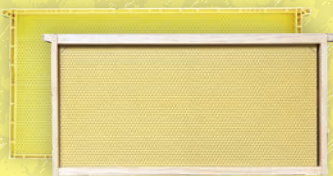
The main drivers of species declines are attributed to, in order of importance: (1) habitat loss mainly through conversion to intensive agriculture and urbanization; (2) pollution, mainly that by synthetic pesticides and fertilizers; (3) biological factors, including pests (think Varroa), pathogens, and introduced species (as in Africanized honey bees); and (4) climate change, according to 2019 *Conservation Science* article "Declines in insect abundance and diversity: we know enough to act now" ([onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.80](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.80)).

One bright spot includes community garden plots, city parks, residential properties, and vacant lots—all support surprisingly healthy populations of bees. Recent research on urban bees suggest that humans can improve high-density habitat to support other species. Both humans and bees are attracted to flowers, although generalist foragers (like honey bees) are favored over native species. It seems the city "can become a refuge" for bees and other insects whose populations are suffering significant declines. In the words of author Jennifer Marshman, "Bees can be both a bridge and gateway. As a bridge, they can provide a way of (re)connecting human and nonhuman nature and as a gateway, they can guide humans to a deeper understanding and connection with urban natures." ([doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2019.091.029](https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2019.091.029)).



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## BEE EVENTS

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

**September 21:** Northwest District Beekeepers Association Conference. Snohomish PUD Auditorium. Limited seating. *Registration:* [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4248173](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4248173).

**October 11–13:** 150 Years of A.I. Root Company. Medina, Ohio. *Information:* [www.beeculture.com](http://www.beeculture.com).

**October 25–27:** Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference. Florence Events Center. Florence. See pages 14–15; *information as it becomes available:* [orsba.org](http://orsba.org).

**November 12–14:** 2019 California State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention. Pechanga Resort & Casino.

**January 8–11, 2020:** American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Expo, Schaumburg, Illinois. *Information:* [www.abfnet.org](http://www.abfnet.org).

**January 8–11, 2020:** American Honey Producers Association Conference. *Information:* [www.ahpanet.com](http://www.ahpanet.com).

## REGIONAL NEWS

**Note:** All affiliated associations invite and welcome visitors to join them at meetings. See page 16, their websites, or [orsba.org](http://orsba.org) for meeting time, website, and/or contact information.

Many regional associations also offer additional opportunities for learning; take care to check their websites as well as postings under *Events* at [orsba.org](http://orsba.org).

### Regional Representatives

#### North Coast

It seems that the most interesting thing that has been happening on the coast is the unusually high number of late-season swarms. There have also been a number of queen issues. Otherwise, our unusually warm weather has been nice for bees and beekeepers alike. Members of the Tillamook association have started taking advantage of their new Honey House. The Central Coast Beekeepers enjoyed a talk from Dewey Caron at their last meeting regarding his work with Africanized bees and his winter survival statistics.

*Kathy Cope*

### Regional Associations

#### Central Oregon Beekeepers

Aaah, September in Central Oregon! We've finished the hot spells in August when the blooms figuratively burst forth. Anecdotally, we're hearing that it's been a good year for our bees, the mites (or maybe against mites), and for honey production. One thought is that the wet spring and early summer with the hotter late summer may have helped the

forage plants into more productive and longer blooming periods. We should start getting production reports in September. With respect to mites, one thought is that more beekeepers are being more attentive with mite count evaluation and treatment. Once again, we'll hear better numbers later in September as well as by early October as folks are evaluating for late-season treatments.

One other area our members have been discussing and working on is harvesting honey earlier (mid-August or so), which is quite counterintuitive in our area with a short growing season. The theory we're exploring is this should give more time for the hives to produce a robust cadre of winter bees in order to reduce the midwinter die-offs as a trade off for the small amount of honey not harvested. There are opinions on both sides, but we should have some results by early next spring.

Our meeting in August, as usual, was our annual member picnic, extractor demonstration, and photo contest, with prizes and the recognition of being recognized on our website. Additionally, Heike Williams with the COAREC provided an evening talk and Saturday demonstration seminar about Varroa treatment options. *Allen Engle*

#### Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

August finds the Columbia Gorge wrapped in dry, high temperatures, often accompanied by lightning, which often brings fires. It also brings about the Varroa mite assessment where we find a need for treatments. Unfortunately, the heat precludes typical miticides as the temperature exceed manufacturers' instructions. Newly installed hives in our region can be broken down into three categories: (1) New hives absent any comb failed due to the cold, damp weather causing the colony to cluster, refusing to nourish on dry or wet sugar supplements, (2) Hives with European Foulbrood languishing during the critical build periods unable to maximize the nectar flow, and (3) Hives that built aggressively in three and four boxes. The complexity of weather, colonies, plants, and such were beyond our meager understanding. The weather created a lateness to the nectar flow (blackberries) into late June/early July, over a month late. So, there were winners and losers in our region. Our association was blessed by George Hansen, Foothills Honey, with some great insights on the state of beekeeping. The Hood River Extension Service where we have bee hives and meet, is funded by Hood River County. The county, like many other counties in our state, has suffered a budget shortfall. It may come to pass Hood River will lose the Extension Service, at least the "non-research" side. This will be an enormous blow to our community, to include the Master Gardeners, SNAP, Master Beekeepers, and other programs.

*Jerry Frazier*



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**Klamath Basin Beekeepers**



This past month has seen most of our members happily increasing their hives in our nice warm, dry, mostly smoke-free summer. However, some members seem to have problems with queens stopping laying and are learning the hard way about the vagaries of beekeeping. This past month's meeting, we had a presentation by our Education Officer, Katharina Davitt, about American Foulbrood and the new phage treatment for it. The association had a booth, under the aegis of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, at the Klamath County Fair from 1 to 4 August with various association members educating the public about honey bees. The hit of the booth, besides the free honey sticks, was the drone petting station. Our next meeting will be our annual BBQ and bee swap. Hopefully, we're swapping bee gear and not bees.

*Paul Davitt*

**Linn Benton Beekeepers**

It's that time of year again, yellowjacket season. I was tending my hives one morning and the yellowjackets were literally lying in wait for the honey bees to come out. Out of the eight yellowjacket traps around my house, the two that fill up the fastest are the ones next to the honey bee hives. The yellowjacket season was off to a slow start at the end of July, but, now that we are in the midst of early September, they are making up for lost time.

This month on September 18th, our guest speaker will be Dr. Roland Solensky. Dr. Solensky works at the Corvallis Clinic specializing in Allergy and Immunology. He will be speaking about bee and wasp sting allergies and ways to alleviate them.



According to webmd.com: "Bee venom is given as a shot for rheumatoid arthritis, nerve pain (neuralgia), multiple sclerosis (MS), reducing the reaction to bee stings in people who are allergic (desensitization) to them (venom immunotherapy), swollen tendons (tendonitis), and muscle conditions such as fibromyositis and enthesitis."

*Amber Reese*

**Oregon Prison Beekeepers**

Bee Stories from Coffee Creek

Correctional Facility Beekeeper Program

**My First Nee Hive Experience**

When I started the Bee Program, I was very scared of bees. The first time I put on the bee suit & gear I told myself, "Show no fear—they can smell it and it'll be a wrap!" As we approached the hives, I silently repeated my mantra, throwing in some "I think I cans." I called to Johnson, "I think I'll watch from over here." Keeping my distance, I slowly crept closer, curiosity getting the better of me. All the sudden I am shocked! They were beautiful! Even more shocking—they just went about their own business of creating despite our intrusion. I had to get closer. Before I knew it, my curious mind led the way along with my feet, and I was peeking inside the hive. I was astounded by nature. I then realized that like every other situation in life, education and courage will always conquer fear. Putting one foot in front of the other will always get you where you need to go—and with a supportive team, you will an always BEE successful!

*AIC Steffany Silsby*

**Why Walk?**

July to August is the highest point in the year for our "Honey Flow." The gardens are in full bloom. Honey bees collect the pollen and turn the nectar of the flower to honey to feed the colony. On her journey to each flower, collected pollen is transferred to other flowers to be pollinated. On this warm afternoon, I sat at the coffee cart smiling at the passing ladies when a bug fell from the sky . . . One of our honey bees took her last flight. Her wings as fragile as tissue paper have torn and frayed making her flight impossible to

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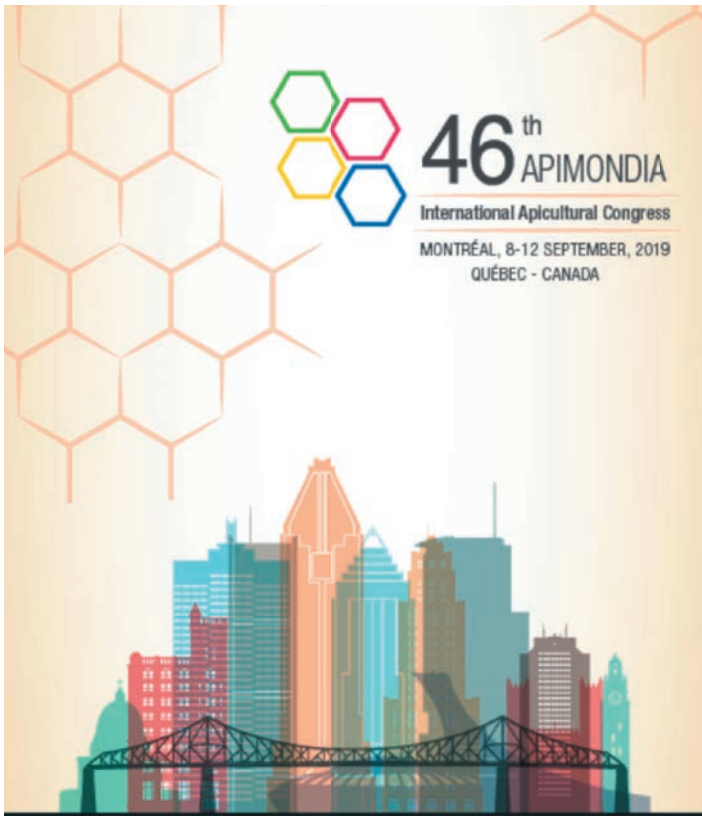
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return to the hive. Without food, warmth, and the safety of her colony, she probably will not survive the night. Her job is done. I thank her, tell her she did a wonderful job, and placed her off the walk onto a flower. This is so she will not be stepped on and may enjoy the rest of her life in peace.

*AIC Kate Crosby*

### Oregon South Coast Beekeepers

Russ Rose, at the right of the honey extractor, invites the audience to come see the freshly spun honey during the demonstration on the main stage of the Curry County Fair, at Gold Beach in July. He is assisted by wife, Babette, partner in My Honey's Produce.



*Mureen Walker*

### Portland Metro Beekeepers

Our news is short 'n sweet this month. Weather for the



PMBA picnic at Patterson Park in Gladstone was iffy, but the rain came the night before and the night after. Perfect! Rex, Doug, and Paul are excellent chefs; the rest of us beekeepers are excellent cooks in the kitchen. All together we (about 40 beekeeper and families) enjoyed

food and friendship. Many of us went home with additional beekeeping supplies, including two queens, OSBA memberships, and conference registration. Several members have moved a number of hives to a fireweed field for a prime honey harvest, and have generated quite the conversation. The story is in the photos.



*Nancy Winston*

### Portland Urban Beekeepers

The ever-shortening, warm, dry late summer/early autumn days are here, and appropriate colony management is foremost on our minds. Portland Urban beekeepers are deep into harvesting honey, managing mites, and evaluating those colonies that will need extra feeding during the seasonal dearth.

The blooms are fewer, but Portland is seeing cowslip, lavender, sunflowers, mint, thistle, a few late-blooming

allium and strawberries, artichoke, basil, sedum, valerian, dahlias, and borage.

Our August meeting was lightly attended with about 50 people and 7 visitors. We had two very interesting speakers from Washington State University. The first was an international student from Turkey, Saffet Sansar, who presented his master's thesis that examined the potential role for activated charcoal (in the form of carbon microparticles) fed in a sugar solution to bees, who had been exposed to sub-lethal doses of pesticides. The idea is similar to poisoning in mammals where activated charcoal is fed (usually through a tube) to a poisoning victim, which allows the charcoal to act as a sponge and absorb toxic residues from the organism. This may be a promising solution for one of the reasons honey bees are not thriving: sub-lethal pesticide poisoning.

Our second speaker, Erin O'Rourke, is the technician at the WSU Honey Bee Diagnostics Laboratory with the Bee Informed Partnership, [bip2.beeinformed.org](http://bip2.beeinformed.org). She reviewed the history of how researchers sought to understand the major culprits associated with Colony Collapse Disorder, and the importance of understanding the role of *Varroa destructor* as a vector for up to 25 unique viruses that weaken our bees and lead to colony failure. She demonstrated and discussed mite monitoring, the importance of Integrated Pest Management, and an ethical framework to consider for good bee stewardship. She brought her microscope to show us our foe, up close and personal, and she pointed out that while our problem is currently Varroa, there are emerging pests and pathogens potentially on the horizon e.g. *Tropilaelaps* spp., a parasitic mite native to Asia that feeds on honey bee brood—for more information: [entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/MISC/BEES/Tropilaelaps.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/MISC/BEES/Tropilaelaps.htm).

Finally, Dewey Caron reviewed what our August colony priorities should be: robbing screens for neighbor bees and yellow jackets, evaluating for the need to feed 2:1 sugar syrup and protein patties, harvesting honey, and Varroa mite monitoring and treatment.

We continue to call for anyone interested in becoming an officer or board member, and we will see you at the Oregon State Fair!

*Cheryl Wright*

### Tillamook Beekeepers

The Tillamook County Fair is all about Country Nights and Carnival Lights and the beekeepers are doing their part to make it a successful affair. Our booth is larger than ever and drawing much attention by everyone who passes by. The booth features several dozen bee-friendly cut flowers from many of our members. We also have provided space this year for two of our website sponsors, to display

beehive parts and tools from the TCCA Farm Store and bee-friendly plants from Hidden Acres Nursery. Our new and improved observation hive is a big draw for young and old, but more importantly is safer for the bees. The design allows the bees to wander down into the frames in the nuc-size box below. The glass-walled frame used for viewing the queen and about 1,000 workers is separated by a queen excluder ensuring she is always visible to the passing crowd. Our honey tasting is a big hit—with honey sales from Henry Garbowski's hives called *Black Dog Honey*. This is a healthy sweet addition for the consumer whose culinary options at the fair are not always so.

For the first time in many years, the Tillamook County Fair added honey as a farm product category, and multiple entries of honey from our members were judged with ribbons and cash prizes to the three best honey jars presented. In the meantime, our brand-new Honey House extraction facility is in full operation, and, even though it is a bit early in the season, five local TBA members have extracted nearly 120 pounds of sweet nectar to help beta test the equipment.

One of our members, Scott Gordon, pulled off a very clever fund-raising idea by auctioning off a “Day in the Apiary” at the Cape Meares Community Center silent auction earlier in the year. The wining couple recently had a lovely lunch with the Gordons including delicious corn muffins with honey from Scott’s bees, and saw the movie “Queen of the Sun.” The movie is about the challenges of keeping bees all over the world and how important pollinator insects are to the human race. Then they spent a couple of hours touring the apiary. Suited up in protective clothing, they followed Scott around learning how bees make comb, forage for pollen, nectar, and water, and make and store honey. What a great idea and to help spread the word about the importance of our bees and raise funds as well.

Our bees in the Tillamook area are doing well so far this

year, and several members have reported that the mite count is significantly down from previous years. We can only hope that this continues to be the case. *Brad York*

### Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Tualatin Valley members have been busy extracting honey and treating their bees for mites. We had an excellent time at our yearly picnic with hive inspections and honey extraction demonstrations. It was a hot day as usual, and volunteer Mike Standing suffered in the heat doing field demonstrations, showing members capped brood, open honey, and how to locate the queen. He demonstrated how to boost weak hives by sharing some strong hive frames with weaker ones. We made a hive-inspection video to be edited and shared with our members. Jerry Maasdam managed excellent honey extraction demos in our honey house. Our concern now is to feed treat as necessary. We are on guard for the WYJ. *Eddie Frie*

## 2019 NORTH AMERICAN MITE-A-THON

DATE EXTENSION - from SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 to SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019


Mite-A-Thon is a tri-national effort to collect mite infestation data and to visualize Varroa infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a one week window. All beekeepers can participate, creating a rich distribution of sampling sites in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Their Varroa monitoring data will be uploaded to [www.mitecheck.com](http://www.mitecheck.com).

The parasitic mite, *Varroa destructor* (Varroa), and the viruses it vectors is a significant driver of this honey bee colony mortality. Yet, indicators suggest that many beekeepers are not monitoring honey bee colony Varroa infestations and therefore not able to connect infestation to colony loss.

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**OBJECTIVE:** (1) To raise awareness about honey bee colony Varroa infestations in North America through effective monitoring methods. (2) Management strategies will be made available for discussion within bee organizations utilizing Mite-A-Thon partner developed information and outreach materials.

**DATE:** Starting the week of September 7, 2019, with a practice test during summer 2019

**PARTICIPANTS:** All beekeepers in North America are encouraged to participate

**COST:** There is no cost. You can create your own test materials or kits can be purchased online and at your local bee supply store.

**OUTREACH:** Promotion of Mite-A-Thon will be through local bee clubs, state beekeeping organizations, and national associations (see partners for examples)

**DATA COLLECTION:** Participants will monitor the level of mites (number of mites per 100 bees) using a standardized protocol utilizing two common methods of assessment (alcohol wash or powdered sugar roll) and then enter data, including location, total number of hives, number of hives tested, local habitat, and the number of Varroa mites counted from each hive. The published information will not identify individual participants.

**SPONSORS:** Sponsorships are being solicited to underwrite costs and grants, as necessary.

**CONTACT:** miteathon@pollinator.org or 415.362.1137

**TO DO:** Determine your preferred method of testing for mites and commit to a day for testing, either individually or through beekeeping organizations, and report your data (see above).

#### Submit Your Data:

bip2.beeinformed.org/mitecheck

For the 2017 and 2018 Mite-A-Thon Analysis Report, see: [www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/MAT-2017-and-2018-Analysis-FINAL-05.13.19.pdf](http://www.pollinator.org/pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/MAT-2017-and-2018-Analysis-FINAL-05.13.19.pdf)

For questions, e-mail: miteathon@pollinator.org.

## OSBA PROPOSED CHANGES

Please review the following proposed changes to the OSBA Constitution and Bylaws: current language in [brackets], proposed changes in *italics*. Current documents are in your directory and on the OSBA website. We will be voting on proposed changes during the general membership meeting at the Fall Conference this October in Florence. Please send questions and comments to [finleykk@yahoo.com](mailto:finleykk@yahoo.com).

### Constitution

#### Article IV Section 1: Membership Categories

In addition, each member shall receive a [one-year subscription] *subscription for the year of membership* to the Oregon State Beekeepers publication, *The Bee Line*.

#### Article V Section 2: Branch Associations

. . . by submitting a list of all of its members and officers thus associated, *\$1 per branch member (the number being the highest number of members during the previous year), and the names and addresses of five (5) members who are also OSBA members for the year of affiliation* to the state association treasurer [annually] *no later than January 15 of the year of affiliation*.

#### Article V Section 4: Branch Directors

To add: *Branch directors may identify a member of the same branch who is also an OSBA member as a proxy to vote at executive committee meetings in their stead by written notice to the executive committee no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.*

### Bylaws

#### Article I Section 1: Membership

. . . and must be accompanied by the [annual dues] *dues for the year of membership*.

To add: *Membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of the year of membership.*

#### Article I Section 2: Dues (A) Paid members

Members shall pay [annual dues] *dues for the year of membership*.

#### Article I Section 2: Dues (B) Honorary life members

. . . and shall pay no [annual membership dues] *dues for the year of membership* to the state association.

#### Article I Section 2: Dues (C) Dues

Dues may be paid at any time and are current for [twelve (12) months] *the year of membership*.

[Annual membership dues] Dues for the *year of membership* shall be determined by the executive committee.

#### Section 5: Working Committees

The chair of each committee will be invited to attend all executive [board] *committee* meetings.

### Conference To Do List

- ❖ Register (see form, page 14; online, see [orsba.org](http://orsba.org)).
- ❖ Secure accommodations (see page 2).
- ❖ Prepare honey and other products of the hive for entering the Honey Show.
- ❖ Consider items, old and new, for donation to the silent and/or benefit auction.
- ❖ Get ready for a load of fine learning and lots of good fun!

OSBA Fall Conference 2019   
**Oregon State Beekeepers Association**

October 25, 26 & 27, 2019  
 Florence Events Center | Florence, Oregon  
 Individual and Family Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name(s) of Additional Immediate Family Members Attending  
 Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Event			Cost
Friday Night Social			Complimentary
Full Conference <sup>1</sup>	Individual - \$150		\$
	Immediate Family - \$180		
Saturday Conference Only <sup>1</sup>	Individual - \$90		\$
	Immediate Family - \$110		
Sunday Conference Only <sup>1</sup>	Individual - \$90		\$
	Immediate Family - \$110		
Saturday Luncheon	\$22 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Saturday Banquet	\$50 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Sunday Luncheon	\$22 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Research Donation <sup>2</sup>			\$
Annual OSBA Dues <sup>3</sup>	\$40 per Person	Number: _____	\$
<b>Total<sup>4,5</sup></b>			<b>\$</b>

- 1) Attendees qualify for preregistration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before October 16. **Late and on-site registration rates are:** One Day \$110.00, One-Day Immediate Family \$130.00, Full Conference \$190.00, Full Conference Immediate Family \$220.00. **No refunds after October 11 or for no shows.**
- 2) The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is classified as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Research donations made out to the OSBA may be deductible; please consult your accountant.
- 3) Please include completed membership form(s).
- 4) Make check **payable to OSBA** and mail with this completed registration form, **postmarked no later than October 16**, to: **Oregon State Beekeepers Association, 2019 Fall Conference, PO Box 10, Aurora OR 97002**
- 5) Hotel reservations are not included in these costs. Special rates are available at local establishments; information at: [orsba.org](http://orsba.org).





**OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**  
**2019 FALL CONFERENCE**  
 FLORENCE EVENTS CENTER | 715 QUINCE STREET | FLORENCE, OREGON  
 A TENTATIVE AGENDA

— Friday, October 25 —

- TBA Executive Committee Meeting  
 5:00 PM **Registration**  
 5–6:00 PM Submit Honey Show Entries  
 7:00 PM Kick-Off **Wine and Cheese Social**

— Saturday, October 26 —

- 7:00 AM **Registration**  
 7:30 AM **Silent Auction Begins**  
 7:45 AM **Welcome & Announcements**  
*John Jacob*, OSBA President  
 8:00 AM **Research Update from the OSU Honey Bee Lab**  
*Ramesh Sagili*, Oregon State University  
 8–9:00 AM Submit Honey Show Entries  
 8:45 AM **The Sustainable Apiary**  
*Mike Palmer*, French Hill Apiaries  
 9:30 AM **Break**  
 10:00 AM **Origin and Diversification of Honey Bees: Conservation Status and the Consequences of Colonization**  
*Steve Sheppard*, Washington State University  
 10:45 AM **Bee Nutrition: One Ring to Rule Them All?**  
*Priya Chakrabarti Basu*, Oregon State University  
 11:30 AM **Break**  
 11:45 AM **Luncheon**  
 Panel: **Queen Breeders**  
*Jordan Dimock*, J & TD Apiaries, Moderator, *Pat Heitkam*, *John Jacob*, and *Frank Pendell*  
 1:00 PM **Managing Stress in Bee Colonies**  
*Jay Evans*, USDA ARS-Beltsville  
 1:45 PM **Can Carbon Microparticles Solve the Issues Associated with Sublethal Doses of Pesticides?**  
*Brandon Hopkins*, Washington State University  
 2:30 PM **Break**  
 3:00 PM **Weathering Heights: Evaluation of Honey Bee Subspecies Mating Behavior Utilizing RFID**  
*Melanie Kirby*, Washington State University  
 3:45 PM **Operation of Sowers Apiaries**  
*Tom Cinquini*, Sowers Apiaries  
 4:00 PM **Silent Auction Ends**  
 4:30 PM **Break**  
 4:45 PM **OSBA General Membership Meeting**  
 6:00 PM **Social Hour**

7:00 PM **Banquet**

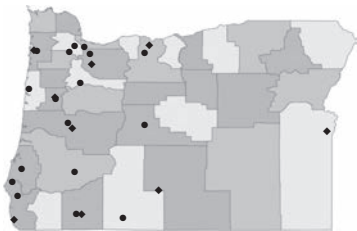
Topic: **What's New with WSU**  
*Steve Sheppard*, Washington State University  
**Benefit Auction to Follow**

— Sunday, October 27 —

- 7:15 AM **Registration**  
 8:00 AM **Welcome & Announcements**  
*John Jacob*, OSBA President  
 8:15 AM **Recognition of 10-Year Anniversary of OSU Honey Bee Lab & Donations**  
*Carolyn Breece*, Oregon State University  
 8:45 AM **The (Considerable) Obstacles to Increasing Honey Bee Forage in Oregon**  
*Andony Melathopoulos*, Oregon State University  
 9:05 AM **Pollinator Habitat Seed for Western Oregon**  
*Garth Mulky*, GS3 Quality Seeds Inc  
 9:25 AM **Resources for Growing Pollinator Habitat**  
*TBA*, NRCS  
 9:45 AM Panel: **Pollinator Habitat**  
*George Hansen*, Foothills Honey Company, Moderator, *Andony Melathopoulos*, *Garth Mulky*, and *NRCS*  
 10:15 AM **Break**  
 10:30 AM **From Bloom to Boom: An Investigation of Oregon (Monarda fistulosa var. menthifolia) for Bee and Pollinator Wellness**  
*Melanie Kirby*, Washington State University  
 11:15 AM **Break**  
 11:30 AM **Luncheon**  
**Challenges in Varroa Control & Beekeeping Philosophies**  
*Ramesh Sagili*, Oregon State University  
 12:45 PM **Walk Away Splits: Steps You Can Take for Stress-Free Queen Rearing**  
*Morris Ostrofsky*, Master Beekeeper-WA  
 1:30 PM **Indoor Storage of Colonies in the Spring and the Effects on Brood Rearing and Swarming Behavior**  
*Brandon Hopkins*, Washington State University  
 2:15 PM **Break**  
 2:30 PM **Queen Rearing in the Sustainable Apiary**  
*Mike Palmer*, French Hill Apiaries  
 3:15 PM **Good and Bad Microbes**  
*Jay Evans*, USDA ARS-Beltsville  
 4:00 PM **Final Comments & Adjourn**  
*John Jacob*, OSBA President

## Oregon State Beekeepers Association

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



#### OSBA OFFICERS

**President**

John Jacob—541.582.2337; oldsolbees@gmail.com

**Vice President**

Joe Maresh—503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com

**Secretary**

Karen Finley—541.753.4120; finleykk@yahoo.com

**Treasurer**

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

**Past President**

Harry Vanderpool—503.399.3675; shallotman@yahoo.com

#### ♦ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

**North Coast**

Kathy Cope—541.264.9222; beachwalkinlady@hotmail.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**

Robert Clements—541.205.8562; kbbabees@gmail.com

**Southwestern Oregon**

Eric McEwen—541.415.5171; beetruehoneybees@gmail.com

**North Willamette Valley**

Steven Coffman—503.838.2981

**South Willamette Valley**

Tim Wydronek—541.740.4127; tim@aldercreekhoney.com

#### ♦ AFFILIATED 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

**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, fourth Saturday, Klamath Falls  
President: Paul Davitt—president@klamathbeekeepers.org  
Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org

**Lane County Beekeepers**

Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, 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: Jesse Fletcher—jesse.l.fletcher@gmail.com

**Portland Metro Beekeepers**

Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Gladstone  
President: Rex McIntire—503.720.7958  
Website: portlandmetrobeekeepers.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





## 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, swarm call listing, four free online classified ads per year, 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:

[orsba.org/membership](http://orsba.org/membership)

*Thank you!*



Oregon State Beekeepers Association  
 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517  
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To join or renew membership by mail, see form, page 17; online, go to [orsba.org](http://orsba.org) and click on *Membership*.

— If the date on the mailing label is September 2019 (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 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](mailto:osba.newsletter@gmail.com). It's *your* newsletter—we want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the **September** issue, 2019. The deadline for submitting copy is **August 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!*

### **Advertising**

#### **Per Issue**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Listing</b>
All events, space permitting (15 words)	<b>Free</b>
<b><i>For a nonprofit group event</i></b> , an additional 30 words (total of 45) in the listing or an article	<b>Free</b>
<b>Advertising</b>	
Business card	\$10.00
Quarter page	\$25.00
Half page	\$50.00
Full page	\$100.00
<b>Classified Ad</b> (30 words)	
Members	\$3.00
Nonmembers	\$5.00