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Image above: The front story speaks to all things bees, including a successful, win-win development. We ourselves benefit daily from the long-established pollinator/flowering plant win-win. The dish in the photo brings it all together and thereby spells thanks for the work of both the honey bee and the pear tree. (To find the recipe, see page 2.)

May all the planning for the 2020 season with the bees and for the upcoming winter season with family, friends—and food, go exceptionally well!

APIMONDIA 2019

Cheryl Wright

Although I am fairly new to beekeeping, when I saw that there would be an international honey bee conference, Apimondia, in Montreal, I decided to attend. Even if the conference was less than ideal, who wouldn’t want to go to Montreal?

As I learned, Apimondia has a great reputation and has been around for a while. It all began in 1893 when the International Committee of Apicultural Congress was established. Four years later, in 1897, in concurrence with the World Fair, the first Apimondia International Apicultural Congress was held in Brussels, Belgium. The first congress was very well attended, and a second congress was held in Paris, France, in 1900. The second congress was also very successful with meetings over 3 days that had 266 attendees from 16 countries. After this second success, an International Permanent Commission was formed, which continues today. Apimondia has continued to meet with varied regularity, depending on major world events (like world wars).

In 1928, the Congress proceedings were first published, and the Congress was held in conjunction with the International Congress on Entomology in 1932. In 1963, the every-2-year schedule was decided upon, and Apimondia became associated with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization. From 1956 to 1971 the scientific papers were presented in a pre-congress. Since 1973, however, Apimondia has combined the scientific presentations with other pertinent beekeeping topics such as environmental concerns, nectar sources, bee stock, development of beekeeping, marketing bee products, the world honey trade, and apitherapy (honey bee products for human health). A variety of contests are also held, including honey, hive products, and innovative beekeeping hardware.

The 2019 46th Apimondia theme was “Beekeeping together within Agriculture.” There were about 5,500 participants from 134 countries, more than 320 lectures, more than 360 posters, and more than 140 medals were awarded!

Apimondia 2019 opened with big fanfare and a packed auditorium. We enjoyed bagpipers, the Canadian national anthem, the Apimondia anthem in honor of the honey bee, and a band from the very northern reaches of Canada that featured

Cheryl Wright stands with the poster presented by Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon State University, during the 2019 sessions of Apimondia in Montreal.

Continued on page 11
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. What could be better than a holiday centered around family, friends, food, and gratitude? Gratitude is a powerful force and actually a very healthy discipline. Research has shown that practicing gratitude actually rewires the brain. fMRI scans have shown long-lasting activation in the medial prefrontal cortex of people who regularly practice gratitude, even in its subllest forms. Practicing gratitude has been shown to improve well being, health outcomes, economic outcomes, and so much more. For a brief writeup on the subject check out this article from Forbes: www.forbes.com/sites/amymorin/2014/11/23/7-scientifically-proven-benefits-of-gratitude-that-will-motivate-you-to-give-thanks-year-round/#3c476b18183c. This article just scratches the surface, and there is a lot of great science around this subject to explore.

Speaking of great science, I am really grateful for the excellent work being done by Dr. Sagili and the crew at the OSU Honey Bee Lab. Beekeeping does not appear to be getting a whole lot easier anytime soon; therefore, we must all work together and bring the best science we can to bear on the myriad of modern challenges facing bees and beekeepers. Thank you to all who have and continue to support this essential and amazing group. Your generosity makes this all possible. There are donation forms available on our website: orsba.org/donations, in case you or anyone you know wants to give and experience some of the benefits of gratitude. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who help Oregon State Beekeepers Association run smoothly. Many hands make light work. We could not do it without you!

In addition to the great work being done at the bee lab and by all of our volunteers, there are many other industry trends we beekeepers can be thankful for. One of these is the steady growth of the cider industry. With US sales expected to break $600 million in the next 5 years, maybe the trend of mowing fruit trees down for grapes and hemp will abate a bit with the increasing demand. This is a beverage beekeepers should get behind. It is a simple fact that fruit trees need bees. I always like to say, “Drinks from trees save bees,” and maybe even a few beekeepers because pollination is such an integral component of what we do. Another subject that I am feeling grateful about is the news that we will not have to face the toxic organophosphate chlorpyrifos in Oregon and California despite the EPA lifting the ban on this dangerous pesticide. For a thorough analysis of the material, check out this link: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlorpyrifos. Findings such as these should be of concern to beekeepers: “Risk assessments have primarily considered acute exposure, but more recently researchers have begun to investigate the effects of chronic, low-level exposure through residue in pollen and components of bee hives. A review of US studies, several European countries, Brazil and India found chlorpyrifos in nearly 15% of hive pollen samples and just over 20% of honey samples. Because of its high toxicity and prevalence in pollen and honey, bees are considered to have higher risk from chlorpyrifos exposure via their diet than from many other pesticides.” This material is not good for humans or bees, and I am very grateful to not have to keep bees near it.

Something else to be grateful about in November is the fact that yet another beekeeping season is in the rear view mirror. With the next pollination months away, it is a great time to reflect on our successes and failures as beekeepers. It is really easy to feel grateful for our success, but with our failures, on the other hand, it is a whole other matter. Several things help me feel grateful after a failure. First, merely surviving a failure is reason for gratitude, and, beyond that, failures often teach us the best lessons and help us to not make the same mistakes again. Keep in mind that, if you are not failing occasionally, you probably are not taking risks or trying anything new. I really hope that, throughout the 2020 beekeeping season, we all have many opportunities to learn new things and take some chances that will help us grow as beekeepers.

Honey bees are a crucial element of our abundant food supply and we are very lucky to work with these creatures. This abundance is part of what we celebrate this month. Here’s to wishing you all a happy Thanksgiving and a big plate full of bee-made goodness with friends and family. While we are on the subject of bee-made goodness, have a cold cider and try this delicious bee-centric recipe for some roasted pears and honey that is absolutely delicious. Bon appetit, and remember to be like the bee this winter and snuggle with your honey.

John Jacob

Roasted Pears with Honey, Ginger, and Vanilla

“Preheat the oven to 400°F with a rack in the middle. Butter the bottom of a large baking dish. Mix the honey, lemon juice, ginger, vanilla pod and vanilla seeds in a large bowl. Halve and core the pears (and peel them if desired) and gently toss them in the honey mixture. Arrange the pears cut-side down in the baking dish. Pour any remaining honey mixture over the pears and tuck the vanilla pod into the baking dish. Roast the pears for 20 minutes, then gently turn them over and spoon some of the cooking syrup on top. Continue roasting, spooning the cooking syrup over the pears once or twice, until the pears are tender and golden, about 20 to 30 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature with the cooking syrup drizzled on top.”

Source: www.kcet.org/food/recipe-roasted-pears-with-honey-ginger-and-vanilla
BROOD BREAKS
Another Tool in the Fight Against Varroa

Max Kuhn

When a break in the brood cycle happens in your honey bee colonies, whether natural, accidental, or intentional, an opportunity to rid the hive of Varroa mites is presented. In each of the three scenarios mentioned above, for a time, No honey bee brood will exist in the hive. During this time, all Varroa mites in these hives will be totally exposed, unprotected, and vulnerable to whatever treatment you choose. Always read the labels to make sure any product you might choose can be used safely and effectively. But don’t miss this opportunity. In the case of the first and second scenarios, close monitoring of your hives may be necessary. Watch for signs of pending swarms, and try to determine if and when the swarm occurred. This will help you determine when the colony is without brood.

In the case of the accidental occurrence, close monitoring of your hives and being alert to changes in bee behavior is necessary and may alert you to an emergency queen replacement or supercede taking place. When you find this situation, monitor the brood until the bees in all capped cells emerge (24 days or less), at which time all mites will be exposed. Again, a gift opportunity is presented to you. Take advantage of it. Treat.

In the third scenario, intentional, a beekeeper can decide to force a break in the brood cycle. This can be accomplished by preventing the queen from laying eggs or controlling when and where she lays those eggs. This tool is sometimes used when the beekeeper wishes to reduce the number of Varroa in the colony without the use of chemicals. And indeed, a break in the brood cycle will, without treatment, slow the growth of the Varroa population for a time because the Varroa mite is totally dependent on the brood of the honey bee for reproduction. If we limit the amount of honey bee brood, we also limit the Varroa mite’s reproduction. But if a beekeeper chooses to use chemical treatments during this period without brood, while all mites are exposed (phoretic), I believe the mite population in this hive can be reduced to ZERO. This condition is temporary, of course, but it is still a very desirable condition to be in.

In the past, if a beekeeper chose to create a break in the brood cycle, he or she would need to remove the queen from that hive or confine her in a cage where she could not, or would not, lay eggs. This created problems with either the queen or the population due to the lack of queen pheromones and/or brood pheromones. In either case, the colony was disrupted and unpredictable. But we now have another tool in our tool box that can prevent these problems.

We now have a Queen Confinement System which allows the beekeeper to confine the Queen to a single frame of drawn comb. She has the freedom to move about on both sides of this frame and does continue egg laying and all other queen functions. All hive activities can continue as usual because the queen remains in the colony. She remains in the colony until day 24 of her confinement. On this day, all brood in the colony has emerged, except for the brood found on the Queen’s frame inside the confinement cage. On this day, that confinement cage can be removed leaving NO brood in the colony and leaving all Varroa in that colony exposed and unprotected: A perfect time to treat that colony with a Varroa-control product. When an effective treatment is applied at this juncture, a ZERO Varroa population can be achieved.

Now, what to do with the Queen Confinement Cage & Brood Frame once it is removed from the colony? Several options exist, and only time, experience, and the desire of each beekeeper will determine which option is chosen during a particular exercise. I have tried the following and like it, but not every beekeeper will make the same decision.

First, I place the Queen Confinement Cage, complete with all attached bees and brood, including the queen, into a waiting nuc box and cover it. I then treat the target colony from which the Queen Confinement Cage was just removed with oxalic acid vapor. About 10 minutes later, I remove the queen from the Queen Cage kept in the nuc box and return her to her now treated colony, where she has resumed normal activities with no apparent...
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As we approach late fall and early winter, there are a number of management tasks we should consider. By this time, you have done your fall inspection and the bees are settling in for the winter. Combining weak colonies is preferable to trying to keep each one going through winter. Joining two weak colonies versus adding a weak colony to strong is preferred. My suggestion is to use the newspaper method to do this. Don’t forget both colonies need ventilation while being combined.

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

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

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

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

I no longer recommend an upper entrance due to the chimney effect: Warm air is lost through the upper entrance. The warm air is replaced by cooler air coming through the upper entrance. The sticky board can also be used for additional moisture control. The objective is to provide ventilation while at the same time helping to block cold winter winds. Push it in roughly half way under the screened bottom board. This position is similar to what would be done for a mite count, except it is pushed in half way rather than all the way.

By November, the bees should have stored approximately 80–100 pounds of honey. Less than this amount signals that continued feeding is necessary. According to Ann Harman, a frequent contributor to Bee Culture, when daytime temperatures are consistently lower than 57°F, we should switch from a liquid to a solid feed. At this temperature, the bees have a more difficult time metabolizing sugar water and evaporating off excess moisture in the syrup.

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

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

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

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

Once the bees are tucked in for the winter, it is a good time to evaluate what you learned this year and make plans for next. Winter is also the time to build bee equipment and gizmos/gadgets. It is also a great time to read about bees and beekeeping. A great source of winter reading is Tom Seeley’s newest book, The Lives of Bees: The Untold Story of the Honey Bee in the Wild. I have also found “BEEKeeping Your First Three Years,” a newer quarterly publication from A.I. Root, to include valuable information, even for someone like me with 50-plus years of beekeeping experience.
Wooten’s Queens & Bees, Inc., Steve Park Apiaries, Inc. & Wooters Bee Farms look forward to continuing to produce gentle, quality Park Italian queens with hygienic behavior and mite resistant traits that produce ample brood and large honey crops. Our continued relationship with the Bee Informed Partnership ensures we are selecting the highest quality Park Italian Queens that will be more tolerant of bee viruses, varroa mites, and nosema disease.

Our Beekeeping family wishes all of you the best in 2019!
November–December 2019

BEE EVENTS


November 19: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM: 2019 Pollinator Conservation in Agricultural Landscapes. WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center, Puyallup WA. $25 Information: Alison Nichols, 253.845.9770 x 132.


May 10: Oregon Coast Honey Lovers Festival. Yachats. Save the date!


October 20: Washington State Beekeepers Association 2020 Conference. Save the date!

REGIONAL NEWS

Note: All affiliated associations invite and welcome visitors to join them at meetings. See page 14, their websites, or 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.

Regional Representatives

North Coast

The weather has gotten grouchy on the coast. However, we still have those gorgeous, sunny days interspersed among the gray, rainy ones, and beekeepers are reporting a fair amount of activity with their hives and lots of pollen coming in. At this time of year, bees are finding pollen on the ivy, asters, herbs, and vegetables that have been allowed to go to flower, and, farther north, the dreaded knotweed. Honey production has been decent, but below average for most beekeepers.

Both Central Coast and Tillamook held informal meetings this month. When their speaker didn't show up, CCBAs Jon and Max served as an impromptu panel and answered questions from the association members. Tillamook also opened its meeting up to reports of problems and successes, and members were able to listen and learn from one another. I've always felt that beekeepers’ willingness to share their knowledge and experience with one another and, often, the public in general to be one of the best things about beekeeping.

Kathy Cope

South Coast

Thanksgiving potluck is the highlight of the last meeting of the year, following the election of officers for 2020. After the meal is time to discuss gleanings from the OSBA Conference and current concerns about beekeeping, locally and afield.

At least seven members of the Oregon South Coast association of Curry County and the Coos County group of Coos County will be reporting back, including a sponsorship attendee who has been a hopeful candidate for an entire year, having just missed the prior year’s scholarship opportunity. Kudos to OSBA for offering the regional scholarships!

Local honey bees were still bringing in bright orange pollen in mid-October. Columbus Day Storm memories are just around the corner. The October storm of 2018 wiped out several of the colonies at the far south coast inundating the hives with horizontal rain.

The swarms that moved into several beekeepers abandoned hives this spring were heavy with honey, some looking possibly honey bound, overburdened for cluster movement. One swarm moved into an abandoned top bar hive in October, but wax moths evicted it.

I am pleased to be able to continue mentoring in 2020 with another new beekeeper who is located at the very south end of the county.

Mureen Walker

Regional Associations

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Brmmm. Well, now it’s t-shirt weather. No, it’s cold again.

November in Central Oregon, as the rest of the state, is a month of transition. All the veggies and flowers have frozen and are pretty dead (kind of a relief after several weeks of covering every night). The real winter storms haven’t moved in yet, so we have quite a few wonderful warm days mixed in with some high teens and low twenties. In our hives, there isn’t much to do, except a few folks who haven’t been satisfied yet with mite treatments who will do some during the warm days. One of the questions we’re wrestling with is the actual cause of the dramatic die-offs last winter in strong colonies during heavy snowstorms of from 3 to 4 feet. Maybe suffocation, maybe mites, maybe localized starvation, maybe . . . ?

In October, we had a beginner bee school for both the community in general and also for the newer members of our
BY CUSTOMER DEMAND, OHB will be offering 5-frame Nucs starting as early as March 7th, 2020. If you are looking to get a jump on the 2020 Bee Season there is no better way! Fresh, young, vigorous queens and brood right out of the box.

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- FOUNDING MEMBER OF BEE INFORMED PARTNERSHIP
association. We had one of our members, a commercial beekeeper from John Day, talk to us about how to be more efficient working with our bees, inspections, etc. We won’t be having a November meeting, but, assuming the weather cooperates and there isn’t too much snow, we will have a December meeting. **Allen Engle**

**Columbia Gorge Beekeepers**

Have you noticed how often in conversation the subject of weather enters? Spring, this year, frustrated honey bee hives with cold, damp, and rainy weather precluding the foragers opportunity to bring vital nectar and pollen back to the hive. A good percentage of the hives in the Columbia Gorge, unfortunately, suffered from European foulbrood. Colonies did not develop in the robust manner necessary to attack the nectar flow. But like all things, the days improved as May arrived blessing us with sunshine. Surprisingly, a number of “first year hives” exploded in activity with the improved environment to create at least a super filled with 10 frames of nice honey. Alas, September, typically a nice warm month, returned to the cold, damp, rainy weather to once again deleteriously affect the poor girls. Just as they was preparing their house of winter, transitioning to the winter bee and finalizing storage of honey, the darned weather turned south (or is that north?). There is always hope this dismal condition will fade. If you are not able to attend the 2019 OSBA Conference in Florence, you will not experience the important research being conducted by Priyadarshini Chakrabarti Basu, PhD, OSU. At the core is nutrition—the third leg of the stool that is grossly understudied. Between Ramesh Sagili, whose doctoral thesis was on nutrition, and Priya’s work, we can all look forward to enhanced appreciation of the critical area.

Heike Williams will travel from Madras to Hood River in October to share her knowledge on oxalic acid: Its three means of application, safety, and relation to the hive season. **Jerry Frazier**

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**Linn Benton Beekeepers**

October in Linn and Benton Counties is beautiful. Honey bees were still finding pollen available during the middle of the month. We saw average temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees. Nighttime lows sometimes reached the freezing point.

By now, you will probably notice that honey bee colonies are starting to become broodless. This period of dormancy, when the bees are starting to cluster, is a good time to think about winterizing your hives. Sugar syrup should be removed by now and replaced with candy fondant and a winter pollen patty if your hives are still light. While winters are not usually severe in Linn and Benton counties, we do receive our fair share of rain. Keeping moisture out of the hives is important so that mold and condensation do not build up. Many beekeepers in the valley install moisture boards or pack their Vivaldi boards with cedar shavings or burlap. Upper entrances also help with moisture control. Our association wishes all beekeepers and their families Happy Holidays. **Amber Reese**

**Oregon Prison Beekeepers**

Oregon Public Broadcasting interviewed Butterfly Lab Tech, Adult-in-Custody Carolyn Exum in August. She is one of five technicians involved in the rearing program for the endangered Oregon Taylor’s Checkerspot Butterfly: www.opb.org/news/article/northwest-butterfly-coffee-creek-incarcerated-women-conservation-lab/#.XVq79-Pc2y4.facebook. The species has two remaining populations in Oregon. In addition, participants in the Powder River Correctional Facility beekeeper program recently extracted 7 gallons of honey. This honey was given to Food Services to be used for the population meals. Great job, PRCF! **Chad Naugle**

Extracting Sweet Honey at Powder River
The Bee Line

Portland Metro Beekeepers
Highlight of the month, the conference in Florence, is just days away and promises to be packed with information and networking among Oregon’s beekeepers. Other highlights:
Continuing winter preparation and planning for healthy hives in the spring. We are enjoying some still wonderful sunny days, still some blooms in the garden. Bees are still out and about, visiting the remaining nasturtiums and the last couple of blooms on the borage. Once the sun is down, however, they are quickly back in the hive and beginning to cluster. Now, they stay put until the sun actually shines on the hive. We are inspecting hives more quickly the past several weeks, even having to take breaks under cover when a heavy downpour passes through. There are reports of a few crabby hives around as well. A number of members are planning to attend “The Pollinator” movie in November in downtown Portland.

Ramesh Sagili presented the latest on research at OSU in September highlighting the dreadful Varroa mite and its effects on bees and hive health. In addition, he discussed micronutrients of bee nutritional needs, which include vitamins, minerals, lipids, and sterols, available only through pollen. The micronutrients along with the usual macronutrients provide the bees with sufficient fats to overwinter. In summary, killing mites in a timely manner is the key to successful beekeeping; that means treating as soon the queen begins laying.

Paul Stromberg, PMBA member and association communicator, detailed for the recent October meeting practical tips for successful overwintering. Plans for winter start in July ideally, ensuring sufficient nutrients are available, beginning with honey rather than relying on emergency measures. Securing the hives against moisture and unwelcome visitors are also key points to healthy hives in the spring. An image of the difference between a fat bee versus a summer bee was striking! Beekeeper diligence is the watchword.

Portland Urban Beekeepers
The leaves are turning, golds and reds mark our transition to autumn, and Portland’s weather has gone from crisp to cool and wet. Portland Urban members are hefting hives and hoping that late summer and fall feeding, along with mite management, will carry our colonies through winter. Robbing screens and entrance reducers are in place, and overwintering strategies are on our minds: Do we need to wrap or insulate our hives? What about protection from rain and moisture?

The October meeting was fairly well attended with about 50 attendees, 4 of whom were first-time visitors. Fortunately, our October speaker was a Canadian beekeeper from Alberta, who is also an Oregon State University professor, Andony Melathopoulos, a pollinator specialist, with some great suggestions. He assured us that our bees would not freeze to death, heavy insulation and bringing them inside was not necessary in our (relatively) mild Pacific Northwest winters. Protecting them from moisture, however, is a big deal. He suggested rigid insulation under our telescoping covers to mitigate condensation dripping back down on the cluster; wet bees cannot maintain the necessary heat to stay warm, and at least one ¾-inch ventilation escape in the upper box. Vivaldi boards fit this bill. He also reviewed the importance of mite management in all four seasons for successful overwintering. He reminded us that bees starving to death was far more worrisome than the cold, so assessing for adequate honey stores is key, and feeding will help ensure overwinter survival.

Our second speaker was Glen Andresen of Bridgetown Bees who shared his slide presentation, “What’s Blooming Now in Portland.” Many things are still blooming, including borage, camellia sinensis, poppies, asters, sedum, dahlias, squash, sunflower, dandelion, salvia, fall crocus, loquat, mint, sage, ivy, butterfly bushes, honeysuckle, thistle, fuchsia, cosmos, trumpet vine, just to name a few.

Important beekeeping news in the Portland metro area is that the Portland City Council is rewriting the city...
code with an eye to limiting the numbers of colonies that we can keep on our property. Mike Rodia is assisting us with navigating these proposals, and he has put forward our Best Practices Model for Urban Beekeeping. We will keep the state informed as we progress through this worrisome development.

Cheryl Wright

Tillamook Beekeepers

We have not yet had a killing frost. The gardens are still full of flowers for bees to enjoy. Cathy Colburn, head of the forage committee, collected a list of bee favorite flowers from the members and grouped them by town. She then got samples of each of them and taught folks the names of them. A robust discussion followed because, what bees loved in one yard, they didn’t touch in another. We learned from Ramesh Sagili that bees basically go to the flowers with the highest concentration of sugar. So, it depends on the choices the bees have. How smart they are! Of course, now in October they go to all kinds of flowers they wouldn’t touch earlier in the year. Borage, Phacelia, and African blue basil are still the bee magnet flowers in my yard. Surprisingly, they love the basil even more than the borage.

We have totally enjoyed the honey house. It seems perfect to us, and we thank the Tualatin Valley Beekeepers for sharing all their good ideas. Unfortunately, honey production is down for many of our beekeepers. A goodly number have hives that have little honey, not even enough to make it to Thanksgiving—let alone through the winter. They seem to be eating the nectar as fast as the girls bring it in, and it has nothing to do with robbing. There’s going to be a lot of feeding this winter. As Brad mentioned in October, mites are way, way down from last year. Perhaps that means a more successful overwintering experience.

Claire Moody

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The TVBA beekeepers are winding down their hives, preparing them for the colder times with feeding, and treating. The members continue our community outreach at various events. Our 4-H outreach continues with ongoing activities in our county. Most recently, Ann Flatz and Alden Potter volunteered to host a table (photo, right). Our own Paul Andersen hosted our September meeting, where he fielded many questions from our members. We had our annual honey tasting event a month early, but closer to our extraction memories. Many of our members are going to Florence for the conference.

Eddie Frie

Apimondia — Continued from page 1

First American traditional throat singing.

Apimondia 2019 was organized into seven major categories that were addressed through lectures and poster presentations that included beekeeping economy, bee biology, bee health, pollination and bee flora, beekeeping technology and quality, apitherapy, and beekeeping for rural development. Downstairs, below the scientific presentations, was a huge exhibition hall where international companies displayed their wares.

The World Beekeeping contest entries were also displayed in this hall and included honey bee related items such as different types of honey, beeswax, and a myriad of candles and wax bars, meads and other honey beverages, cosmetics, and medicines. Also, contests for best apiculture-related innovations and inventions. Surprisingly, there were contests for books, magazines, artistic exhibits, and displays related to the honey bee.

Apimondia opened my mind to the many dimensions of the beekeeping world with aspects of honey bees that I had not imagined or considered. The environment was filled with detailed and technical information about the honey bee, images and colors, people speaking multiple languages all around me, and all of it was focused on the honey bee.

I learned so much at this conference that I don’t have space to talk about, but there was a great deal of cutting-edge research presented. For instance, German researchers continue to look at feeding honey bees lithium salts in sugar syrup to kill Varroa mites; the worrisome Asian mite
The national parks in Western Uganda had a poaching problem, the farmers had an elephant problem, and the bees were the heroes.

Elephants are big, hungry, pesky creatures, and do not discriminate between jungle food and people food. They frequently damage property and destroy crops, and it is illegal to kill or harass them. According to Robert, this was bad for the people who lived around the parks because their crops were routinely being damaged and destroyed. Additionally, the villagers were becoming increasingly more resentful of the elephants because there was little that they could do to protect their food and livelihood. This was bad for the elephants because no one really cared if they were poached; they were bad neighbors.

That’s when the idea to keep honey bees occurred to Robert and his colleagues. Robert is the managing director of the Environment and Development. It turns
out that elephants really hate honey bees. When elephants approach honey bee colonies, the bees become agitated, and, if an elephant gets too close, the bees go right for the elephant’s eyes, ears, and trunk. This can lead to an elephant’s death, and the elephants know this. As beekeepers, we all know the reputation of “Africanized” honey bees (Apis mellifera scutellata Lepeletier); they are a little touchy about their personal space and do not hesitate to let others know. So, Robert and his colleagues started teaching villagers how to keep their native honey bees in top bar hives.

Over 500 colonies were distributed, and people were taught how to build additional hives, as well as how to care for the bees and harvest honey. The villagers strategically lined the long hives end to end, and attached them together with wire. They used this configuration to create a border between the jungle and the villages. With very acute senses, the elephants can perceive the bee colonies from a significant distance, and they can hear or feel the bees vibrate as they become agitated. The successful end result had been that the elephants give these colonies, and subsequently the village, a very wide berth.

Data collected from this project showed that, from 2012 to 2015, there was a drop from 44 elephant crop raids to only 12. Unpublished data show this continued downward trend. Poaching has decreased to almost zero, and there have been no poachers from the villages arrested in the past several years. As an unintended consequence, crops yields have been higher for those crops that benefit from insect pollination, and, though not a huge crop, the villagers have enjoyed their honey harvest. More importantly, the people have come to love working with their bees in this win-win situation.

Brood Breaks —Continued from page 3

re-introduction issues, having only been absent from her colony about 10–15 minutes. I have then repeated this entire process with another neighboring colony where that queen had been placed in confinement at the same time and in the same manner as the first colony. I repeated this process twice more. So, I now have two 5-frame nuc boxes each containing two Varroa-laden frames of brood and their attending nurse bees. To these I added three frames each of bee food from donor colonies. I then transported these two 5-frame nucs to a remote location away from other honey bee colonies where I began mite treatments periodically until all brood had emerged. Each nuc had created and raised their own queen during this time, and each nuc was then relocated to an area near other colonies for mating purposes. This all happened during a four-week period in June/July 2019. Both nucs are alive and well, having grown into 10-frame deep boxes to date (October 7, 2019). If you are unable to remove the mite-laden frames away from your apiary, as I did, you may want to consider freezing the frames with brood and mites to eliminate any possibility of creating a “Mite Bomb” in your neighborhood. If you choose this option, you would return all attending bees to their respective colonies before treating the colony and then return the queen/s.

If you are a new beekeeper, you may want to seek information and training from bee associations or more experienced beekeepers on the process, timing, benefits, and risks of creating Brood Breaks in general. But, specifically in the use of this QCC, an information/training class is planned for the early session, prior to the regular (November 2019) meeting of the Lane County Beekeepers Association. The address and time of their meetings are at: www.lcbaor.org. These QCCs are not for sale. They must be constructed or otherwise acquired by the user. They are simple and inexpensive to build. Exact measurements will depend on your individual brood frame types and sizes. For more information and building suggestions/instructions, go to Lane County Beekeepers Association’s website. Look for the “Brood Breaks” title on the site.

Thanks to Harry Vanderpool, Past President of the OSBA, who discussed at a meeting several years ago his efforts to create a tool similar to the QCC, but for a different reason. Thanks to his mention of that effort, I have spent countless hours, with a blank stare on my face, cogitating how to confine the queen and keep her active in her colony at the same time, this being a perceived solution to a variety of problems. Well, this simple tool (QCC) is the best I’ve been able to come up with. Now it’s time to test it. Thanks a lot, Harry!
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South Willamette Valley
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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

*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@rfpc.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
Website: www.ibba.us

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
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—postmarked no later than January 15, 2020, for discounted dues—to:

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

Date: ________________________
First Name:___________________MI:____Last Name:_____________________
Company name: ____________________________________________________
Type:  q Small scale (less than 25)  q Sideliner (25–300)  q Commercial (more than 300)
Mailing address:____________________________________________________
City:____________________________ State:__________Zip:________________
Telephone number: ________________ e-mail address: ___________________

Newsletter: Please select version:  q Digital  q 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:

 q Do not include contact information
 q Share all information OR Share:  q mailing address  q phone number  q e-mail address

Local group, if member: _____________________________________________

Membership Dues
The following discounts are offered during OSBA’s transition from a month-to-month membership accounting to a system based on the calendar year. Both new and renewing memberships now expire at the end of the calendar year. Although these special rates are in effect until January 15, 2020, please take a moment and renew today. After January 15, dues revert to $40 for everyone.

For NEW and September–January RENEWALS—$40 per person $_________
For February RENEWALS—$35 per person $_________
For March and April RENEWALS—$30 per person $_________
For May and June RENEWALS—$25 per person $_________
For July and August RENEWALS—$20 per person $_________

Note: Month of membership expiration is noted in the 2019 Membership Directory and on the mailing label of printed copies of the newsletter. If unsure, please contact osba.newsletter@gmail.com for expiration month.
Very Best Wishes of the Season to Everyone!

If the date on the mailing label is 2019, 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. It’s your newsletter—we want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the January–February issue, 2020. The deadline for submitting copy is December 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

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**For a nonprofit group event**, an additional 30 words (total of 45) in the listing or an article Free

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**Classified Ad** (30 words)

| Members | $3.00 |
| Nonmembers | $5.00 |