

# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association

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Rosanna Mattingly

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Honey, wax, and photographs entered in the 2007 Fall Conference Honey Show as well as conference presentations spoke of not only the joy but also the love beekeepers have for the bees and the work involved in their keeping.

\*Patricia Swenson reports that OSBA Membership sent a \$12,500 check to the OSU Foundation for the Northwest Apiculture Fund, thus matching the first \$12,500 in donations, in December 2007. This money came out of the OSBA checking and savings accounts.

## **Varroa RESISTANCE: How Much Is Good Enough?**

*Heike Williams*

Dr. Marion Ellis, Professor and Extension Apiculture Specialist at the University of Nebraska, began his conference presentation with a list of invasive species that have entered the United States in the last 20 years: tracheal mites, *Varroa* mites, small hive beetle, *Nosema ceranae*, Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV), Africanized honey bees (AHB), and bee shipments from Australia. The tracheal mite was first identified in 1984 and caused high colony losses for 6–7 years. After that it became a minor problem in most areas, but beekeepers continue to consider it a problem in selected areas. The invasion of the *Varroa* mite started in 1987 and is still considered the most important beekeeping problem beekeepers face. *Varroa* introduction was followed by AHB in 1990, the small hive beetle in 1998, *Nosema ceranae* in 2002, and IAPV in 2007. In 2004 large numbers of package bee shipments began arriving from Australia. The last two decades have witnessed an unprecedented rate of bee disease and parasite introduction, and it is no wonder that bees are suffering at the whim of so many new arrivals.

The demand for bees to pollinate almond orchards in California is also a factor in honey bee health. To cover the pollination needs of almond orchards, half of all colonies in the United States are concentrated in a relatively small area—the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys of California. This not only promotes the spread of disease but also facilitates the spread of miticide-resistant genes when colonies are returned to their home bases across the United States. Although almond pollination income sustains the profitability of beekeeping, it also introduces new risks for rapidly disseminating diseases, pests, and undesirable genes. Dr. Ellis reminded the audience that beekeeping is a community business, and therefore beekeepers need to work together to overcome challenges and problems.

Ellis followed up with explanations regarding the synergistic interactions of factors that can have an influence on the health of a colony. The influence of one factor, such as a miticide, a virus, the management of the beekeeper, or poor forage, is one thing.

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### **The Bee Line**

*The Bee Line* is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association. The newsletter is published ten times a year, and subscriptions are included with membership in OSBA.

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as corrections, letters, comments, photographs and stories (old and new), interviews, and requests for advertising to: Editor, *The Bee Line*, 4803 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 157, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: [thebeeline@comcast.net](mailto:thebeeline@comcast.net).

#### **Advertising Costs Per Issue**

##### **Business Ads:**

Business card	\$10.00
Quarter page	\$25.00
Half page	\$50.00
Full page	\$100.00

##### **Classified Ads (30 words):**

Members	\$3.00
Nonmembers	\$5.00

Please submit all copy by the 10th of the month prior to publication. The next issue will be April 2008. Contact the Editor with questions.

Thank you!  
Honey Bee  
Immunity to Infection

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Have you ever thought of increasing your apiary? Say, maybe get up to a few hundred hives? Or—better yet, just over a thousand? This should put you in the commercial category. I know this is the dream of at least a few of the hobby beekeepers reading this. There are tales of riches in the California almond pollination, and we all know that honey sells well at local farmers markets. Beekeeping has many joys and rewards.

Let me tell you a few tales of the other side. Bill brought a semi load of bees to me a couple of weeks ago. He had to shovel a foot of snow to get his truck out. Then his forklift froze up and he had to get a tractor to finish the loading. A several hour job just got a few cold hours longer. Oh well, the upper Hood River Valley has a good late honey flow.

George called a few days ago. He was looking for a few bee nets for semi-truckloads of bees. His nets were in the wrong place. Yet his real tale was that of his latest trip to California. It snowed so hard that traffic was moving 5–10 miles an hour. I know you have been in traffic like that in Portland, and that time you went to the Coast by way of Dundee. But—how about from Eugene, Oregon, to Redding, California?

George said that every pass they went over was closed behind them. In his words, it was the worst trip down to California ever. I know George is young compared to me, yet he has made that trip for many years. Tory was behind George by a few hours and got to spend the night at the Seven Feathers Casino. I understand he lost only a few dollars, not his entire bee outfit as some have reported. Tad left with his truck and trailer loaded for Modesto, California, a few days later and got to stay in Medford before making a very snowy trip.

I have heard from a few others, but you get the idea. This is starting out as a tough year for commercial beekeepers. I have just two more loads to go down, so I am leaving tomorrow. The rain has made more mud than I can remember. I am tired of coming home cold, wet, and muddy. Of course, my wife says I forget the bad and only remember the good things. I hope she is right, or I might just cancel the bee business for next year.

I guess this year makes up for the past several years of clear roads and sunny skies. Mark is always telling me that things even out. Maybe that means the rest of the year will be a honey. (I couldn't resist.)

As OSBA president I was invited to speak on the blueberry program at the Oregon Horticulture Society. There were more than a hundred blueberry growers in attendance. The speaker before me stressed the importance of honey bees in blueberry production. My topic was the availability of honey bees in Oregon. I stressed the OSBA web site advertising as a method of finding a beekeeper to provide bees for blueberry growers. You may want to consider advertising on the web site as a method of renting your bees in blueberries. Many blueberry plantings are small, and the growers are looking for just a few colonies. Some are very large and take many colonies. The acreage planted to blueberries is increasing every year.

—Chuck

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## OSBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 1, 2007 • Canby, Oregon

Attendees: Chuck Sowers, OSBA President  
 Mark Johnson, OSBA Vice President  
 Rosanna Mattingly, *Bee Line* Editor  
 Kerry Haskins, Portland-Metro President  
 Jordan Dimock, Eastern Oregon Regional Rep  
 Peter Forrest, Metro-Area Regional Rep  
 Harry Vanderpool, Willamette Valley Reg Rep  
 Meeting called to order at 1:12 pm.

Chuck reviewed the treasurer's report with the Board. Comments surrounding the report centered on the 2007 Conference.

Conference registration proceeds exceeded expenses by a small amount (~\$200.00).

Proceeds from auctions:

- ❖ Oral Auction: \$8,369.00
- ❖ Silent Auction: \$948.00
- ❖ Honey Auction: \$940.00

One item under consideration is to establish a separate accounting for the honey auction, which would be used to cover honey show expenses and prizes or cash awards.

Ideas presented to streamline the oral auction accounting because of the fast-paced nature of the event:

- ❖ Additional staff to assist the treasurer and/or others keeping notes during the auction.
- ❖ Prepared statements in advance of the event.
- ❖ Setting up a viewing area for auction items prior to the event.

Discussion segued to conference reflections:

- ❖ A suggestion was made to provide time in the agenda to highlight the vendors. Vendors could possibly speak for 3–4 minutes and/or offer a door prize to promote their products. One suggestion was to conduct this session at one of the conference luncheons.
- ❖ Speaker's topics should be confirmed prior to placing them on the agenda. Last-minute changes in scheduling by speakers can cause a break in the continuity of subjects.
- ❖ Prior to the conference, a power point or bulletin board collection of pictures of beekeepers who passed away in the previous year should be assembled for a presentation.
- ❖ There is interest in having a bulletin board at the conference so that attendees can post items for sale.
- ❖ Much was learned from the honey show. Time should be allowed in the agenda for awards and auction. This could take place possibly during a luncheon.
- ❖ Should conference registrations be given to regional associations for raffle to promote conferences? Jordan Dimock moved that one single-person registration be given to each regional association in 2008 as a continuance of this program. Mark Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chuck read the minutes from a meeting that was held with Washington State Beekeepers Association president Jerry Tate and regional representative Bob Arnold regarding the terms of a possible tri-state conference for 2008 to be hosted by Washington. Mark Johnson objected to the language in regards to "responsibilities."

*Continued on page 4*

**Minutes—Continued from page 3**

The minutes stated that the responsibilities and expenses were to be shared equally. In the past, the host bears the expense and is responsible for organization of the event. Chuck will return to the table with Washington regarding this issue.

Peter Forrest started discussion about gathering together past meeting minutes and newsletters, and putting them into digital form. Maybe we could make them available on the OSBA web site. Board members will research this and discuss at the next meeting.

Chuck reported that Patricia Swenson will check with the OSU Foundation to see if \$12,500.00 has been met so the OSBA can match that amount. Names of possible nominees for the Northwest Apiculture Fund Review Committee were discussed. Chuck encouraged contacting possible nominees for further discussion at the next meeting.

There is \$28,484.00 in the Research Fund. Chuck has received several comments about putting some of this money to work in certain research projects. He is also concerned about having too much money sitting around as a nonprofit organization. Some names were floated as possible recipients. Some questions to be answered for the next meeting:

- ❖ If we donate funds for research, how are projects selected?
- ❖ What are the legal ramifications of a nonprofit organization writing a check to a person for research?
- ❖ Are there organizations that would match our funds? (Chuck will look into this.) There is the possibility that \$6,000.00–\$10,000.00 could be split into parts for current research.

Chuck Sowers made a motion to adjourn. Mark Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a show of everyone walking out of the room.

Respectfully,

*Harry Vanderpool*

**YELLOWJACKETS: Good or Bad?**

*Ken Ograin*



German yellowjacket

I was approached by a fellow beekeeper at the recent conference who had concerns that I was trying to eliminate yellowjackets with my queen trapping strategy. He feels we need them, and I will agree that in the balance we need all native wasps and hornets. They help maintain a balance of pests that harm our gardens. I went on to tell him that my concern is the non-native German yellowjacket (*Vespula germanica*), first established in the Northeastern US in the 1970s. By the 1980s it was established in the Northwest and reached southern California by the 1990s. This may help you understand the comment I have heard many times, “I don’t remember the yellowjackets being this bad.”

Although the queen pheromone used in the Rescue trap does target native species (western and forest), the vast majority of queens I find in my traps are the German. The queen pheromone does not target beneficial wasps, including the gentle paper wasp and the mud daubers.

German yellowjackets tend to nest in and around our homes, whereas the native western yellowjacket prefers ground nesting in wooded or open areas. German yellowjackets tend to target beneficial wasps as well as honey bees. Other than raccoons and bald-faced hornets, they have few predators.

If you would like to learn more about these insects, you can find information on habitat and behavior at the UC Riverside web site: [wasps.ucr.edu/waspid.html](http://wasps.ucr.edu/waspid.html). New Zealand researcher B.K. Clapperton published a paper in 1989 which reported that the German yellowjacket (also non-native) destroyed or seriously affected 10% of beehives in New Zealand. A report just out states they are getting a foothold in Hawaii.

**Varroa**—Continued from page 1

The influence of two factors combined, e.g., miticide + miticide, virus + *Nosema*, or beetle + beekeeper, can be manifold on our colonies, and not simply doubled. Chemicals, diseases, and parasites may have sublethal effects that are not obvious or easy to identify. (There is a definite need for honey bee toxicologists.) Furthermore, the aspect of the synergistic effects of multiple problems can affect the economic threshold figures for each of the diseases and pests. The interactions of multiple pests call into question meaningful threshold figures for individual pests. Because of the different combinations of chemicals, diseases, and parasites the colonies of a beekeeping business are exposed to, there is a need for an annual pest-management plan. There is no one plan that works for all beekeepers alike.

Next, Dr. Ellis reported on a project he was involved in in southern France, where beekeepers keep *Apis mellifera mellifera* (also known as the German black bee). This bee survived the last 13 years without any treatment against the *Varroa* mite. The question was: why are they resistant? The hypothesis is that these bees have a hygienic behavior which makes them open infested cells and remove the infested larvae. In one experiment, colonies stocked with Italian bees (*Apis mellifera ligustica*) were compared with colonies stocked with German black bees. Researchers found that *Varroa* mites, given the choice between open *Apis m. ligustica* and *Apis m. mellifera* brood, preferred invading the brood of Italian bees. For reasons the researchers don't know yet, the brood of Italian queens seems to be more attractive to *Varroa* mites. Furthermore, they found that adult German black bees removed a higher percentage of infested cells in five days than did the Italian bees. Altogether they observed a 25% difference in hygienic behavior.

Dr. Ellis emphasized that breeding for *Varroa* resistance needs the input of every beekeeper. All beekeepers should work at perpetuating stocks that survive when nearby colonies fail instead of relying on queen shippers for all their genetic base. Stock selection needs

to be done both by queen producers and by their customers. With the loss of so many feral colonies, all beekeepers need to work at maintaining genetic diversity.

In ending his presentation, Dr. Ellis talked about a collaborative research group, the NC508 Committee, whose goal is to pursue collaborative research in addressing beekeeping problems associated with colony losses—including biotic stress, abiotic stress, genetics and bee breeding, habitat conservation, and nutrition. The USDA is requiring more collaborative efforts to access competitive funding for CCD research. This policy should foster more comprehensive initiatives that result in products that beekeepers can use.

### UPCOMING BEE SCHOOLS

**Coos County Beekeepers—March 1,** 9 am–3:30 pm, or until all questions are answered. OSU Extension Service, Ohlsen Baxter Building, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Point. \$10. Bring a lunch. Contact: Thom Trusewicz at [ccbee@intergate.com](mailto:ccbee@intergate.com) or Jane Oku at [jane\\_oku@hotmail.com](mailto:jane_oku@hotmail.com).

**Lane County Beekeepers—March 15,** already full (see page 7).

**Portland-Metro Beekeepers—April 26** (see page 11).

**Southern Oregon Beekeepers—March 29,** 9:00 am– 3:30 pm. Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point. \$30. Contact: Julian Lewis at (541) 535-5817 or [lewis\\_adams\\_00@yahoo.com](mailto:lewis_adams_00@yahoo.com).

**Correction:** An article in the last newsletter stated that George Hansen and Thom Trusewicz presented a Bee School at the Idaho Beekeepers Conference in December. Although they both had presentations at the conference, George presented a talk on CDD, and Thom Trusewicz presented the Bee School.

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## OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION RESOURCES

### OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

**Columbia Basin:** Deb Morgan  
3800 Benson Rd, The Dalles; (541) 298-5719

**Eastern Oregon:** Jordan Dimock  
2635 Mitchell Butte Rd, Nyssa; (541) 372-2726

**Metropolitan Area:** Peter Forrest  
(503) 236-7787; pdxpete57@msn.com

**North Coast/Webmaster:** Thom Trusewicz  
90041 Logan Rd, Astoria  
(503) 325-7966; ccbee@intergate.com

**South Coast:** Open

**Southern Oregon:** Open

**Willamette Valley:** Harry Vanderpool  
7128 Skyline Rd S, Salem; (503) 399-3675  
shallotman@yahoo.com

### OSBA REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



**Central Oregon Beekeepers**  
Meets 6:30 pm, third Tuesday, Bend  
Deschutes Public Library, Hutch Rm  
**President:** Dennis Gallagher  
(541) 389-4776

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Glenda Galaba  
(541) 383-1775; galaba@msn.com

**Coos County Beekeepers**  
Meets 6:30 pm, third Saturday (except Dec)  
Olsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Pt  
**President:** Thomas Kyelberg  
(541) 297-4017; usvi@charter.net  
**Vice Pres:** Spike Richardson; (541) 267-4725  
**Secretary:** Marda Burgdorff; (541) 888-5695  
**Treasurer:** Jane Oku; (541) 396-4016  
jane\_oku@hotmail.com

**Lane County Beekeepers**  
Meets 7:30 pm, third Tuesday, Eugene  
EWEB Meeting Rooms, 500 E 4th Ave  
**President:** Paul Gordon; (541) 510-8420  
rpaulg@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Judy Scher  
judy\_scher@catdreams.com  
**Treasurer:** Nancy Ograin  
(541) 935-7065; woodrt@pacinfo.com  
**Newsletter Editor:** Jonathan Loftin; (541) 736-1870  
lcbnewslettereditor@hotmail.com  
**web site:** www.lcbaor.org

**Portland-Metro Beekeepers**  
Meets 7 pm, second Thursday, Oregon City  
Hous Auth Clackamas Bldg, 13930 S Gain  
**President:** Kerry Haskins  
(503) 632-8448; kh251@aol.com  
**Vice President:** Jim Mellis; (503) 631-4622  
**Secretary:** Paul Hardzinski; (503) 631-3927  
**Treasurer:** Barbara Derkacht  
(503) 631-3063; bderkacht@yahoo.com

**Southern Oregon Beekeepers**  
Meets 7:30 pm, first Monday, Central Pt  
So Or Res & Ext Ctr, 569 Hanley Rd  
**President:** John Jacob  
(541) 582-BEES; john@oldsolenterprises.com  
**Vice President:** Floyd Pawlowski  
415 Pompadour Dr, Ashland  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Julian Lewis  
(541) 535-5817; lewis\_adams\_00@yahoo.com  
**web site:** www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org

**Tillamook County Beekeepers**  
Meets 7 pm, first Thursday, Tillamook  
Forestry Building, 5005 Third St  
**President:** Bob Allen; (503) 322-3819  
**Vice President:** Terry Fullan  
(503) 368-7160; tfullan@nehalem.tel.net  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Wayne Auble

**Tualatin Valley Beekeepers**  
Meets 7:30 pm, last Friday, Beaverton  
OSU Ext, #1400, 18640 SW Walker Rd  
**President:** Andrew Schwab  
(503) 537-0506; pyr4ausi@verizon.net  
**Vice President:** Herb Brasington  
**Co-Secretaries:** Paul Anderson and Jerry Maasdam  
**Co-Treasurers:** Michael and Brigitte Hendrickson  
hendricm@ece.pdx.edu

**Willamette Valley Beekeepers**  
Meets 7:30 pm, fourth Monday, Salem  
Chemeketa Comm College, Bldg 34, Rm A  
**President:** Richard Farrier; (541) 327-2673  
**Vice President:** Harry Vanderpool  
(503) 399-3675; shallotman@yahoo.com  
**Secretary:** Mike Rodia  
(503) 364-3275; drodia@yahoo.com  
**Treasurer:** Susan Rauchfuss  
(503) 391-5600; smokfoot@cyberis.net

## REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

### Lane County Beekeepers

Our members staffed a booth at Eugene's *Good Earth Home, Garden, and Living Show* recently. This alternative home show showcases green, sustainable products and practices. It drew a crowd very interested in bees and beekeeping. We fielded lots of questions about what's happening to the bees, sold out of club-label honey, and had a great time!

Our annual Bee School will be held March 15—and is already full. Dr. Peter Wetherwax is scheduled to speak at our March 17 meeting, and on April 15th we'll be talking about Spring Management and Swarm Control. Guests are always welcome. Check our web site at [www.lcbaar.org](http://www.lcbaar.org) for meeting time and location.

—Jonathan Loftin

### Portland-Metro Beekeepers

The group's February meeting will take place at Ruhl Bee Supply, where owner, John Edwards, will show his presentation *Honey Bees of the World* and James Vermeer will talk about bottom boards. The March meeting will be at our regular location, and the topic will be Spring Medications.

This year's Bee Field Day will be Saturday April 26th at George Hansen's place in Colton. All are welcome (see registration form, page 11; additional forms are at Ruhl Bee Supply and on the OSBA web site). Please mail registrations no later than April 19th. This event is an excellent opportunity, especially for those new to beekeeping. We will also have an educational booth at the Master Gardener Spring Fair to be held at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in Canby on Saturday May 3rd (10 am–6 pm) and Sunday May 4th (10 am–5 pm).

—Kerry Haskins and Bev Koch

## KEEPING BEES IN WESTERN OREGON

Todd Balsiger

February and August have historically been the two months on the opposite sides of the nectar flow to treat for *Varroa* mites, but this is

not written in stone. There are new mite-control options, and they have different temperature range requirements and honey super withdrawal times. In a nutshell, we do not want our *Varroa* populations to get too high—3,200 mites is the number cited as the economic threshold for the United States. And we do not want to skip a treatment window if it means that the threshold number will be exceeded before the next treatment window.

The need to treat should be based on the current mite population. If you have a high mite population, you should treat immediately. If it were today (mid-February), your options would be Apistan and Checkmite. If you have a low mite population, you can delay and treat in March or April with controls that require shorter withdrawal times before supering but higher daily high temperatures for use. Mite Away II can be used at 50–79°F; Apiguard, at 60–105°F.

The most efficacious mite controls buy you about four months, including the treatment period before you need to treat again. This period can be extended by using mite-tolerant stock, screened bottom boards, drone brood removal, powdered sugar, and so forth. I think one possible and viable treatment option for Oregon beekeepers is to use Mite Away II in the spring (March/April) and Apiguard in August. Before next winter oxalic acid may be registered for use during winter broodless periods.

How do you *estimate* how many mites you have? There are two techniques: the alcohol wash and the natural drop count. An alcohol wash can be used to estimate *Varroa* populations with or without the presence of brood. It is simply a ratio of the number of mites per given number of bees multiplied by the total estimated bee population, followed by factoring in the *Varroa* population hidden in the brood. Two-thirds of the mites are estimated to be within the brood itself. For example: brood is present, and there are 30,000 adult bees. You find five mites in a ¼-cup alcohol wash (about 150 bees). This is equivalent to one mite per 30 bees, or 1,000 mites total on the adult bee

*Continued on page 8*

**Keeping Bees**—Continued from page 7

population. Add the two-thirds hidden in the brood, and you have roughly 3,000 mites, close to the economic threshold number of 3,200.

The natural drop estimate for *Varroa* populations requires full cycles of brood. Incidentally, the numbers for both techniques come from Dave VanderDussen—the Mite Away II proprietor. It is best to do a three-day, 24-hour sticky board drop count. Each fallen mite represents 1% of the total mite load. This means you multiply the average drop count by 100. An average drop count of 32 mites in 24 hours would equal 3,200 total mites, or the economic treatment threshold. In addition to considering *Varroa* mites...

- ❖ Heft hives to find any light ones. Provide light hives emergency feed, preferably sugar candy / fondant or frames of honey. This is prime time for starvation, as brood production increases energy demands. When daytime highs exceed 55°F, fumagillin medicated syrup can be used instead of fondant or frames of honey.
- ❖ Feed all colonies Terramycin in powdered sugar weekly for three weeks to prevent American and European foulbrood. Terramycin requires a four-week withdrawal time between the last antibiotic treatment and the first marketable nectar flow. Tylosin provides up to four weeks of protection with a single treatment, but there is a caveat: it is more persistent and requires an even longer rest period than Terramycin before supering. There is a growing problem with Tylosin being detected in US honey.
- ❖ Look for signs of *Nosema*-infected hives. Symptoms include: slow build-up (best indicator), disjointed wings, distended, bloated abdomen, a lot of yellow streaks on the outside of the colony, and bees crawling outside of the hive. These symptoms may also be associated with tracheal mites. Make sure suspect hives have good ventilation and treat with fumagillin syrup. (Follow the directions exactly. Overdosing does not help. Treat fumagillin with respect—it is dangerous stuff.)
- ❖ Find and remove queenless or dead-out colonies. If pollen is actively being brought in, this generally indicates a healthy queen and colony. Remove dead-outs and find out why the colony succumbed—queenlessness, starvation, disease? If equipment is disease-free and in good shape (frames are not all dark with thick cell walls, riddled with drone brood cells), store for future use in a dry location. Stack supers on end so air and light can penetrate to discourage mold growth and wax moth activity.
- ❖ Spring usually brings some of the wildest and windiest weather—albeit we have already had tremendous winds this winter. Make sure lids are secured after you break the seals.
- ❖ If you feel your area lacks sufficient natural nectar flows and pollen to fuel high-energy growth to make full-sized production colonies in time for the main nectar flow (end of May), feed fumagillin medicated sugar syrup and pollen substitute when the daily highs exceed 55°F.
- ❖ Wax moth activity dramatically picks up when the temperatures rise. Keep an extra eye out for stored frames that have had brood and have pollen. Paradichlorobenzene can be used for control, as can freezing the frames. Exposing the frames to light can inhibit the moths, too.
- ❖ One last thought: Don't feed pollen substitute too early. I would consider too early to be January, February, and maybe the first part of March. Brood production will increase, which may exhaust winter food supplies prematurely. It also increases activity, metabolism, and hive moisture. The weather may be inappropriate for cleansing flights, increasing the likelihood of the bees developing dysentery. Dysentery is the quickest and most effective way of converting a slight *Nosema* infection into a severe one. Winter should be a time of quiescence that enables the bees to live so that they can take the colony over the period when little or no brood is being reared.



## CONFERENCE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It takes a concerted effort to put together an event such as the OSBA Fall Conference, a *village* of sorts. Many give of their time and energy to make it happen—in some cases, year after year. The conference is relatively demanding because, in addition to the presentations, we have the auctions and the concurrent bee school and honey show. The auctions would not be possible were it not for the gifts given, those who manage and track the donations, those running the auctions, and those who generously make the bids. The bee school and the honey show require planning, set-up, and instruction. The care of the presenters in sharing their knowledge and understanding is yet another essential ingredient, as are the interest and commitment of those taking time away from home, work, and other obligations to attend.

Patricia Swenson reports that the 2007 Banquet Auction made \$8,569.00, and the Silent Auction

made \$948.00. Additional money donated by OSBA members to the Research Fund this year totaled \$376.30. The auction proceeds and donations were deposited in the Research Fund, which now totals \$28,867.00. The auction of honey from the Honey Show contributed about \$940.00. In all, the conference made approximately \$200. Whether the event makes or loses money does not determine its success in terms of what those who participate gain. Even so, it's better not to lose.

The organization is in the *black* rather than the *red* for the 2007 Fall Conference. This would not have been the outcome without the gracious donation of hotel and/or travel expenses by the following presenters: Dan Cummings, George Hansen, Pat Heitkam, Jay Miller, Gus Rouse, Lynn Royce, and Thom Trusewicz.

Thanks to **ALL!**

—Rosanna Mattingly



### Presenter Transportation

Herb Brasington  
Deb Morgan  
Andrew Schwab

### Conference A-V

Harry Vanderpool  
Jim Strawn



### Managing Donations

Jordan Dimock (banquet)  
Deb Morgan (silent)

### Behind the Scenes

Jeanne Sowers  
Patricia Swenson



### Planning

Mark Johnson  
Harry Vanderpool

### Publications

Harry Vanderpool

### Honey Show

Marge Ehry



### Conference MC

Chuck Sowers

### Registration

Patricia Swenson  
Tad Buford  
Jordan Dimock  
Karen Finley  
Lynn Royce  
Kurt Swenson  
Heike Williams

### Auction Paperwork

Jordan Dimock  
Deb Morgan  
Kurt Swenson  
Heike Williams  
Patricia Swenson

### Bee School

Thom Trusewicz  
Lynn Royce  
Andrew Schwab  
Virginia Webb

Continued on page 10

Donations

Silent Auction

- Florence Ames & Mary Kay Love\* at Ames Apiaries
- Cloudleaf
- Concepts 2 Market
- Glory Bee Foods\*
- Happy Keeper USA
- Honey Bee Rodeo
- Mark and Sue Johnson\*
- Kona Queen Hawaii INC
- Maycelle Muncey\*
- Noyes Apiaries
- Mike Rodia
- Ruhl Bee Supply\*
- Sowers Apiaries\*
- Fred VanNatta\*
- Carl and Virginia Webb\*
- Vazza Farms

Auctioneering

- Jordan Dimock
- Pat Heitkam
- Jay Miller
- Gus Rousse

Banquet Auction

- Florence Ames
- Big Island Queens (Ray Olivarez)
- Can-Am Apiaries\*
- George Hansen
- Heitkam’s Honey Bees (Pat Heitkam)\*
- Nancey Jellison
- Mark and Sue Johnson
- Kindall Apiaries (Bill and Judy Kindall)
- John Kraus
- Jim and Karen Landers
- Deb and Bob Morgan
- Mother Lode Plastics
- Maycelle Muncey
- Daryl Nelson
- Noyes Apiaries (Tony Noyes)\*
- Pendell Apiaries
- Mike Rodia
- Gus Rouse (Kona Queens)
- Chuck Sowers
- TD Apiaries
- Western Bee
- Kenny and Heike Williams

Banquet Wine

- George and Sue Hansen
- Bob and Deb Morgan
- Tony and Debbie Noyes
- Jan Lohman and Vince Vazza

THE OSBA HONEY SHOW

Marjorie Ehry

“The best honey in the world is the honey you produce” is a statement made by Virginia Webb from Georgia, who spoke on *Blue Ribbon Honey and Marketing* during the 2007 OSBA Fall Conference. The topic was a good tie in with the Honey Show held in conjunction with the conference. The show was a hit with attendees, speakers, and even hotel staff. It had been discontinued years ago, but the time is right to again showcase the many varieties along with beeswax and other bee products produced here in Oregon. Following the contest, the entries were auctioned off and generated over \$900. We plan to set up a budget for offering cash prizes, along with ribbons and other kinds of items as incentives.

The Sweepstakes for 2007 was awarded to Fred VanNatta of Salem. Fred is a hobbyist long-time beekeeper who entered honey competitively at the State Fair, where he won with his Ross rounds and sections. This year he also entered in the photo division. The Judges Choice went to Florence Ames of Elmira for her entry of poison oak honey. Florence and her late husband Don produced large varieties of honeys, which they sold mainly to local people from their packing house. Poison oak honey is a popular variety, in large demand by customers hoping to build up immunities to poison oak.

A new category has been added to the show: *Beekeeping Photos*. This provides an interesting and educational aspect to the exhibit. This was the first year it was included at the State Fair. I believe that once people know about this category it will become one of the biggest divisions. Each year we will follow the theme of the State Fair’s contest. This year’s first place at the OSBA Conference was taken by Mont Rouse of Baker City with his photo of a swarm entitled *Gorilla*. You can only imagine how big it was and what it looked like. Thanks Mont!

Everything we do makes the public more aware of the value of this little insect—from a display

Continued on page 12

\*Denotes multiple donations to that auction.



# BILL RUHL MEMORIAL BEE DAY

PRESENTED BY THE

PORTLAND-METRO BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY APRIL 26, 2008

PLACE: George Hansen's  
Foothills Honey Farm  
30576 S Oswalt Rd  
Colton, OR 97017

TIME: Registration: 9:00 am  
Presentations:  
10:00 am–3:00 pm

COST: \$15.00 per person/\$25.00 per family, preregistered  
\$20.00 per person/\$30.00 per family, day of the event  
Registration includes box lunch

GEAR: Bring your "bee protection equipment" (bee veils, gloves, suit, etc.)

PRESENTATIONS (about 45 minutes each):

- A. Beekeeping Equipment
- B. Basic Hive Inspection
- C. Nuc Installation/Package Installation
- D. Finding the Queen
- E. Diagnosis and Management of Honey Bee Diseases

For more information, contact:

Kerry Haskins (503) 632–8448 or Jim Mellis (503) 631–4622

Complimentary Morning Beverage provided. Soda and water available for purchase.

To preregister, return this form with \$15 per person/\$25 per family to *Bill Ruhl Memorial Bee Day, c/o Barbara Derkacht, 17130 S Seal Court, Oregon City, OR 97045*. Make check payable to the Portland-Metro Beekeepers Association. Please mail no later than April 19th. Thank you.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER PLANNING TO ATTEND \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE OR E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

FOR A VEGETARIAN BOX LUNCH, PLEASE INDICATE \_\_\_\_\_

**The Bee Line**

**Honey Show—Continued from page 10**

of bee products to the food on the table. Entries have been lagging on the State Fair level, probably for many reasons. One reason, I am sure, is the difficulty in just keeping the bees alive. Yet, I know beekeepers, and there is great pride in the beautiful golden honey and beeswax produced by our bees. Any time we can educate the public about the value of the honey bee, we need to do our part.

We invite everyone to bring their finest honey and products to compete with fellow beekeepers both at the State Fair and 2008 Fall Conference. Listed below are the names of the contestants and the numbers of entries from the 2007 conference. I thank everyone who participated. You made this a big success, one we hope to continue.

**Entries**

- Fred VanNatta (5)
- Florence Ames (4)
- Chuck Sowers (4)
- Harry Vanderpool (2)
- Mark Johnson (2)
- Paul Anderson (2)
- Andy Schultz (2)
- Mont Rouse (1)
- Karen Finley (1)
- Bob Morgan (1)
- Thom Trusewicz (1)
- Jan Lohman (2)



Rosanna Mattingly

Marge Ehry presiding over the Honey Show at the 2007 Fall Conference.

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Direct any questions for the Foundation to their Director for Development for the College of Agricultural Sciences, Todd Bastian, at (541) 737-8724.

**IMPORTANT:** Making your check out only as described above ensures that your donation is correctly applied to the Apiculture Endowment and not to any other program.

**MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS FORM**

Membership in the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association 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 a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, and ten issues of *The Bee Line*. To become a member, send check made payable to OSBA with completed form to: Patricia Swenson, 11665 SE Webfoot Rd, Dayton OR 97114.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Discounted Publications:**

<b>Journal</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>2 years</b>	<b>3 years</b>
<i>American Bee Journal</i>	__\$18.70*	__\$35.40*	__\$49.80
<i>Bee Culture</i>	__\$21.00**	__\$38.00**	—
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	__\$13.25	__\$25.25	—

\*Outside the US, add \$18 per year for postage.

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**Note:** *The OSBA respects the privacy of members and will not sell any information provided. May we include your name and address in a membership list that will be given to OSBA members only? YES/NO (please circle one).*

**Membership:** \$20 per person (\$29 per person outside the US) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Publication(s):** Indicate journal(s) and period(s) of subscription \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional voluntary contribution:** Designate Research Fund/  
General Fund (please circle one) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*The Bee Line*

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The **Oregon State Beekeepers' Association** is a nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping.

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