

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association

Volume 33, Number 9

October 2008



Kira Durbin

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Front story: As described in *Plants for Pollinators in Oregon*, our opportunities for creating and adding to resources for honey bees are rich and varied.

Fall Conference: The October 16–18 Fall Conference agenda is available in the September issue of *The Bee Line* and on the OSBA Web site (www.orsba.org). Meal options and the registration form appear on pages 10 and 11, respectively.

A New Technical Note: *Plants for Pollinators in Oregon*

Kathy Pendergrass

The *Plants for Pollinators in Oregon* Technical Note is now available. The note came about as a collaboration between Joe Williams, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)-Corvallis Plant Material Manager, Mace Vaughan, with the Xerces Society, and myself. I am also a Plant Material Specialist, now working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Portland.

The NRCA is part of the US Department of Agriculture. The agency works with private landowners on a voluntary basis to conserve natural resources on private lands. The NRCS can also give financial assistance to landowners to install conservation practices through what are known as *Farm Bill* program funds. The Xerces Society is a nonprofit agency interested in conservation of native butterflies, bees, and other insects. Mr. Vaughan has been working on conservation of pollinators and enhancing habitats to support healthy pollinator populations. In light of recent declines in honey bee populations and the importance of bees in pollinating food crops, we wanted to summarize some thoughts about how farmers and others could help pollinators—with a big emphasis on bees. Because much of my interest and background is in preserving native plant diversity, I especially wanted to encourage practices that would increase the use of native plantings for pollinator enhancement. Thus was the genesis of this note.

The note is organized into three main sections. First, it outlines general steps for enhancing habitat for pollinators. There is much information here about how individuals could enhance habitat to increase pollinator populations on their own land. Next is a section describing how NRCS practices might be used to enhance pollinator habitat. There may be funds available at local NRCS offices to install these practices on private lands. The last section includes tables of suggested plants that might be used for various pollinator enhancements.

The plant tables at the end of the document are included as Excel spreadsheets to encourage folks to take them and delete plants that don't occur within their regions to create their own workable tools (spreadsheets) to assist in choosing appropriate plants for their own purposes and regions.

Continued on page 3

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.

Advertising Costs Per Issue

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Please submit copy by the 10th of the month prior to publication. The next issue will be November/December 2008. Contact the Editor with any questions.

Thank you! *Infection*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many of you have experienced the first or maybe the first several frosty nights by now. Yet here, as I write this short piece, it is as warm as any summer day, and the nights cool only a little. The bees in some locations are bringing in some nectar. They are bringing in beautiful yellow pollen. And I suppose they are bringing in water as well. Even so, for the most part, the bees just gather on the bottom board and have curtailed their flying.

I am looking forward to doing the same. For us, unlike the bees, the weeks of September and October are at least as busy as any months of the year. Moving bees into central winter yards for ease of taking care of them takes up most nights. Coordinating mite treatments with the feeding of sugar syrup and pollen substitute keeps a beekeeper on the run during the day. With one eye on the weather and the other on the wallet, beekeepers are trying to maximize winter survival of their bees. We calculate that every gallon of syrup with its medicine for *Nosema* is now less than four dollars. The total, when adding labor and fuel costs, makes us thankful for the pollination fees that growers have paid us this year.

Higher honey prices this season seem to be holding. We have received several calls offering more than fifty percent over last year. Several friends have told me that they also have been offered or sold for like amounts. In farmers' markets, the price of a gallon seems to be most often in the forty-dollar range.

Most of you will have mailed your registration for the Northwest Corner Beekeepers Fall Conference by now. The conference schedule is posted online and in last month's *Bee Line*. It looks as though Washington beekeepers have lined up a great group of speakers.

The Oregon State Beekeepers will have a Board of Directors meeting at 2 PM Thursday afternoon in the same Red Lion Inn location. All are welcome. The yearly business meeting and election of officers will be Friday afternoon at 4:45 PM.

Don't forget the fall conference Honey Show. Last year we won several blue ribbons. Some would say that means anyone can. Makes us want to try again.

—Chuck

WESTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY UPDATE

Dewey M. Caron

The Western Apicultural Society met in Victoria BC at end of August in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Province and beginning of BC beekeeping. The first BC beekeeper, John Drummond Buchanan Ogilvy, imported the initial two bee colonies from San Jose, California; however, two years later (1860) he brought two colonies to British Columbia from Oregon. In 1862 he brought six additional colonies from Oregon to Vancouver Island, then an independent colony from Canada. Mr. Ogilvy lived for a while in Ashland before heading north, but it is unknown if the bees were from the southern part of the state or closer to the shipping ports along the coast or Portland area.

Program highlights included this history, visits to large and backyard beekeepers, sessions on bee sting therapy, and bee beards on Legislative Hall grounds—courtesy of John Gibeault, who does bee wrangling for movies/commercials as a sideline business. The bee sting therapy sessions included Fred Malone, who cured his arthritis with bee stings and authored *Bees Don't Get Arthritis*, and 2008 WAS President Mark Pitcher, who solved an MS skin ailment with bee venom and is now helping fund bee venom therapy research in a major way in Victoria.

The 2009 WAS Conference will be held in California. It was last held in Oregon (in Corvallis) in 2001. Is there interest in bringing it back? Jim Bach and I will explore the possibility of a WAS Conference jointly convenient to Oregon and Washington beekeepers for 2010. I would like to hear from those who might have interest in helping serve as an organizing committee for a WAS meeting. I will return to Oregon in April.

Dewey M. Caron, Department of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, 250 Townsend, University of Delaware, Newark DE 19716; dmcaron@udel.edu

Plants—Continued from page 1

I am interested in your feedback about the information included in this technical note and how to improve on any subsequent updates of this note. I'm particularly interested in hearing about your observations about what bee species you have seen visiting various native and non-native plants, particularly in great densities. I am hoping to improve our understanding about which plants we know to be particularly good for pollinator use (especially which bees are visiting which plants). I plan to include this information in future updates.



Kathy Pendergrass

A honey bee visits a camas flower.

The technical note, which includes links to a rich array of resources, is at: ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/OR/Technical_Notes/Plant%20Materials/PMC13.pdf. I hope you find the information provided in this note useful in your conservation endeavors. Please contact me at kathy.pendergrass@or.usda.gov with any inputs or comments that you would like to provide.

TESTING FOR PESTICIDES

Many beekeepers have expressed an interest in having samples from their colonies/apiaries tested for pesticides as a result of recent evidence of high pesticide levels in wax, pollen, and brood. The National Science Lab in Gastonia NC, which is part of the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service, is capable of screening for up to 171 pesticides. Funding from the ABF Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees and Project *Apis mellifera* has helped establish a program to reduce the cost of analyses by half. As a result, beekeepers will pay \$45 for miticides or \$100 for the full screen of 171 pesticides per sample. Data are confidential. Information will become part of a centralized and highly confidential database maintained at Penn State. Beekeepers submitting samples will receive both analytical results of samples submitted and how these results compare to the average level and range in the entire database up to the time of analysis. To participate, contact Maryann Frazier, Department of Entomology, 501 ASI Building, University Park PA 16802 or (814) 865-4621.

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: Open

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: Shigeo Oku; (541) 396-4016
Vice Pres: John Gardner; (541) 572-3847
Secretary: Marsha Long; (541) 290-8847
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@nehalemtnet.net

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
herb@hwbsystems.com
Co-Secretaries: Jerry Maasdam; jmaasdam@mac.com
Paul Anderson; paulanderson@tritektsolutions.com
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: Gordon Kroemer
(503) 538-2307; kroemer2@verizon.net

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Lane County Beekeepers

In a recent vote, the group chose the history of beekeeping, finding the queen, and splitting hives for meeting discussions. There was good participation at this year's field day, held at Lynn Royce's place, though relatively few beekeepers entered honey at this year's Lane County Fair. The group's market coop will begin selling honey again at the Lane County Farmer's Market on September 13; new members are welcome.

—Adapted from: LCBA September 2008 newsletter

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

The Southern Oregon group held the annual election this month and voted to retain our current directors: John Jacob—President, Floyd Pawlowski—Vice President and Regional Representative, and Julian Lewis—Secretary/ Treasurer. Also our group has now become a recognized partner with our local OSU Extension Center. We are looking forward to working together with OSU Extension to provide knowledge and information to foster a thriving beekeeping community and extension services. We are planning to operate some community teaching hives on the extension grounds for live management demonstrations and training.

—John Jacob

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The Tualatin Valley group will not be having a meeting in October because of the Tri-State Convention and Halloween event.

—Andrew Schwab

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

The group's monthly meeting presentation and discussion recently involved fall and early winter preparations, as well as how late is *too* late, depending on what remains to be done. The group thanks all who participated in staffing the OSBA Booth at the State Fair and is especially thankful to those who helped set up, remove, and ensure that the booth remained equipped throughout. Mike Rodia notes that the number of honey and other beekeeping products entered for judging was the poorest he's seen in the last fifteen years, something that needs consideration for the future.

—Adapted from: WVBA September 2008 newsletter

KEEPING BEES IN OCTOBER

Todd Balsiger

October is a transition month from fall to winter in our weather. Generally the weather is relatively benign for the first two or three weeks, and then winter arrives in earnest by Halloween or so. The average maximum daily high temperature for Salem in October is 64.3°F; it is 52.5°F in November. This is our last opportunity to feed syrup and finalize winter preparations before dormancy.

- ❖ Continue to check for light hives. Heft hives (lift one side up). They should be noticeably heavy. If not, feed a saturated sugar solution (60% sugar, balance water by weight). Feed early enough to allow syrup to ripen.
- ❖ Because of *Nosema apis* and especially *Nosema ceranae*, feed two gallons of Fumidil-B medicated syrup. If feeding for weight, this medicated syrup should be fed last.
- ❖ Place a barrier between the bottom of the hive and the ground. Pallets are ideal for this.
- ❖ Keep hives exposed to the sun with entrances faced away from prevailing winds.
- ❖ Tilt hives so water drains away from the entrance. Ensure proper ventilation and that lids do not leak.
- ❖ Add entrance reducers/mouse guards.
- ❖ All superfluous items within the hive, e.g., *Varroa* treatments, queen excluders, and extra rims, should have been removed by now.
- ❖ Find and remove deadouts. Place all unused equipment in storage.
- ❖ Protect frames. Moth crystals (paradichlorobenzene) are typically used for this purpose. Stack supers (or brood boxes), and put crystals on a piece of paper placed on top of every 5th super or so. Then place a lid on top. Vapors kill moths and larvae, but not eggs. Freezing is an option and will kill eggs. Also, wax moth activity is suppressed if supers (and the frames within) are left open and exposed to light.
- ❖ If hives are opened/lids lifted late in the active season (or past), the propolis seals have been broken. Take care to secure the lids to keep them from being blown off during winter winds.

AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

Brent Searle

Fall is here. Harvest is winding down for some, gearing up for others. It's a signal that the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Fall Harvest Dinner is just around the corner.

What: Fall Harvest Dinner/Auction and Fundraiser for the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Foundation (see: aitc.oregonstate.edu/).

Why: More than 77,000 students in Oregon schools received materials and training from AITC in 2007/08 with your generous support. AITC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that relies on donations, grants, and contributions for accomplishing the purpose of helping young people gain a better understanding of agriculture, the source of our food and fiber, and its impact on our economy and daily lives. Learning about agriculture and its positive effect on the community helps make today's students tomorrow's well-informed citizens. AITC provides science-based curriculum, reference materials, and teaching aides to K-12 teachers throughout Oregon.

When: October 18, 2008
 5:00 PM Social Hour/no host bar
 6:30 PM Dinner
 7:45 PM Auction

Where: Linn County Fair & Expo Center,
 Albany, Oregon

To support Agriculture in the Classroom:

1. Join us for dinner! For tickets, visit: <http://aitc.oregonstate.edu/whats/harvest.htm> (\$35 each).
2. Order a table of tickets for your company or business (8 seats for \$250.00).
3. Buy an extra ticket and bring a teacher!
4. Contribute auction items for the dinner/auction.

Contact: Tami Kerr, Executive Director, Oregon AITC Foundation, 105 Ballard Extension Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis OR 97331 or (541) 737-8629

5. Even if unable to attend, join other organizations, businesses, and individuals in directly donating to AITC (see: aitc.oregonstate.edu/about/donors.htm).

HONEY BEE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Dewey M. Caron

Oregon State University established the Honey Bee Diagnosis Lab in March 2008 as part of the Plant Clinic in the Botany and Plant Pathology Department. Dr. Jim Young is the insect ID specialist taking on the new honey bee pathogen- and pest-screening duties. I had a chance to visit Jim in July as part of my introduction to bees and beekeeping in Oregon.

Jim studied Entomology at the University of Georgia where he focused on a tortrix moth for his dissertation under Dr. Berisford; this moth group includes some serious fruit pests, such as the codling moth. He joined the OSU faculty to head the Insect ID Clinic in December 2006. As part of the diagnosis lab, Jim posted preliminary information on honey bee pests and pathogens on the OSU Insect Clinic Web site (see: web.science.oregonstate.edu/bpp/insect_clinic/bees.htm). The information comes from the 1990 editions of *The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture* and *Honey Bee Pests, Predators and Diseases*. Jim referenced some material from my MAAREC Web site (www.maarec.psu.edu), though more recent materials are not included.

Jim has developed a survey, which is posted at: tinyurl.com/3qkya4. During my visit, Jim indicated that he is disappointed that few surveys have been returned from beekeepers and that there have been only a few requests for diagnostic services. Both activities could help beekeepers. Jim currently lacks the facilities needed to identify viruses and *Nosema* to species. However, the latter may be a moot point because, according to new research presented at the Eastern Apicultural Society meeting in early August, it seems that *N. apis* has been displaced by *N. ceranae* in the United States.

Most recently, Jim was tapped to co-chair the search for an Extension Apiculturalist. This position and that for a Research Assistant are funded through an emergency package approved by the Joint Legislative Emergency Board and are for one year only. Jim recently submitted a proposal to the Specialty Crops Research Initiative to provide an additional twelve months of funding for both the Extension Apiculturalist and the Faculty Research Assistant positions.

A VIRUS IN THE NEWS...

A newly discovered invasive virus, *Varroa destructor virus 1*, is able to infect both honey bees and *Varroa* mites. First identified in Europe in 2006, the virus is very closely related to *Deformed wing virus*, also able

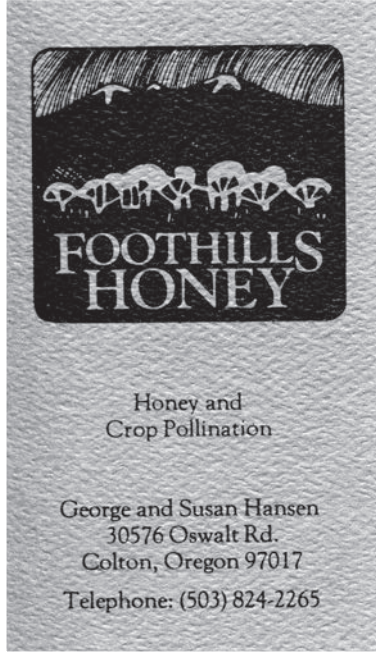
to infect both bee and mite. Researchers say that they haven't seen the virus "express itself among honey bees yet." Although research indicates that the virus is not a prime candidate for biological control of the mite, the early detection does allow US beekeepers the possibility of early control and quarantine of affected colonies.

FOR DONATIONS TO THE NORTHWEST APICULTURE FUND FOR HONEY BEE RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION

- Make your check out to: **OSU FOUNDATION**
- On the memo line, take care to write:
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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.



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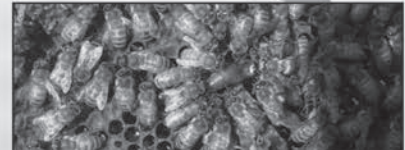


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MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS FORM

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, OSBA Treasurer, 11665 SE Webfoot Rd, Dayton OR 97114.

Name: _____

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Discounted Publications:

Journal (Please note if new subscription or renewal.)	1 year	2 years	3 years
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<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	__\$13.25	__\$25.25	—

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

**Outside the US, add \$15 per year for postage.

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: \$ _____

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CONFERENCE REGISTRATION!

Plan to attend the Fall Conference at the Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay in Vancouver WA. The event takes place October 16-18, 2008. Along with completing the registration form on page 11, please include the following meal selections and *specify how many of each if a family* to help Washington beekeepers with ongoing planning.

Dinner meal selection

- ❖ Char grilled King Salmon _____
- ❖ Maple glazed pork loin _____
- ❖ Sliced London broil _____

Sandwich for Friday

- ❖ Ham and Swiss Cheese _____
- ❖ Turkey and Cheddar Cheese _____

Sandwich for Saturday

- ❖ Ham and Swiss Cheese _____
- ❖ Turkey and Cheddar Cheese _____

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CONTROLLING VARROA MITES

A study sponsored by the National Honey Board is now complete. The research focused on developing a new way to treat for *Varroa* mites. The method described increases the water solubility of oils such as that of thyme, which contains thymol, so they can be administered in sugar syrup. The abstract of the study, titled β -Cyclodextrins as Carriers of Monoterpenes into the Hemolymph of the Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) for Integrated Pest Management, can be accessed at: pubs.acs.org/journals/jafcau/index.html at no cost. (Select *Current Issue*, scroll down to title, and then select *Abstract*.)

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**Northwest Corner Beekeepers Fall Conference 2008
 Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay ∞ Vancouver, Washington
 October 16, 17, and 18**

Attendee's Last Name First Name MI Registration Date

Company Name (if applicable) _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Mailing or Street Address Cell Phone _____

_____ e-mail _____

City State/Province Zip Code

Name of family member(s) attending _____

Event	Registration for Individual Days	Full Conference Registration
Thursday Night Hospitality Room	Complimentary	Complimentary
Friday Conference individual @ \$50 Family Registration Fee @ \$70	\$	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Saturday Conference individual @ \$50 Family Registration Fee @ \$70	\$	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Full Conference individual @ \$90 Family Registration Fee @ \$115	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	\$
Friday Noon Lunch @ \$16	\$	\$
Friday Evening Banquet @ \$30	\$	\$
Saturday Noon Lunch @ \$16	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$	\$
If exhibiting, number of tables @ \$25 each _____		
TOTAL PLUS EXHIBITOR'S TABLE FEE		\$

1. Make checks payable to WSBA.
2. Mail this completed registration form and payment to: Paul Hosticka, 517 S Touchet Rd, Dayton WA 99328.
3. Hotel reservations are not included in these rates. Make reservations at the Red Lion @ (800) 733-5466. Be sure to ask for the Northwest Corner Beekeepers Fall Conference special room rate. They need to know that you are attending the Northwest Corner Beekeepers Fall Conference when you make reservations to get the bargain rate.

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association
4803 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 157
Portland OR 97206

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Please check your mailing label. If the date on the label is near **October 2008**, your membership is due to expire. *Now is a good time to renew!*



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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