

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association

Volume 33, Number 10

November/December 2008



Kenny Williams

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Front story: Perhaps all of us appreciate good news these days, however relative. How might we rethink our assumptions, strategies, and expectations so that we move forward in a more sustainable way? As is true of all natural systems, we know that honey bee colonies can be pushed only so far.... What changes might we envision?

Image above: Dr. Eric Mussen (left) visits with George Hansen at the recent conference hosted by the Washington State Beekeepers' Association. The event was engaging and informative. Do you have a story to share?

POLLINATOR DECLINE NOT CRITICAL, YET

From Crisco, Australia—Reprinted from Bee Culture

The well-documented worldwide decline in the number of bees and other pollinators is not, at this stage, limiting global crop yields, according to the results of an international study published in the latest edition of the respected science journal, *Current Biology*. Co-author, CSIRO Entomology's Dr Saul Cunningham, says however that the study detected warning signs that demand for pollinators is still growing and some highly pollinator-dependent crops are suffering. "The research team scored crops on how much they depend on pollinators for maximum production," Dr Cunningham says. "Depending on the crop, this dependence ranges from zero to 100 per cent. For example, cereal crops like wheat don't need to be pollinated but at the other end of the scale, unpollinated almond trees produce no nuts." The team found that between 1961 and 2006 the yields of most crops have consistently grown at about 1.5 per cent a year because of improvements in agriculture. There was also no difference in yield growth between crops that require pollinators and those that do not.

"While this is a positive finding, the interaction between yields and pollination is a hugely complex issue which needs to be teased out further," Dr Cunningham says. "Global summaries can also hide local stories. In some places, local pollinator shortages are affecting local production. While these don't threaten overall global food supplies, they can have very significant impacts on local communities and their economies."

The researchers were surprised to discover that there has been a global increase in the growing of pollinator-dependent crops, particularly in the developing world. "The fact that, while pollinators are declining in various parts of the world, global agricultural systems are becoming more dependent on pollinators, could create serious problems in the future," Dr Cunningham says. When the group looked at pollinated crops in more detail, they found that pollinator shortages might be beginning to affect crops that rely heavily on pollination because their yield growth was lower than for crops that were less dependent.

Dr Cunningham says they now want to examine how declining pollinator supply might be increasing the costs of production. Increased yields are usually the result of increasing farm inputs such as fertiliser, labour and water. For some crops, this increasingly intensive management may have, for now, overcome any losses in pollinator service, but it also increases production costs. There is also evidence that one response to lower yield growth for highly pollinator-dependent crops is a growing demand for land.

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.

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Please submit copy by the 10th of the month prior to publication. The next issue will be January/February 2009. Contact the Editor with any questions.

Thank you! *Infection*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Must be the warmth created by good friends and fellow beekeepers. The weather has been wonderful since the fall conference. Fall often brings a few nice days of Indian summer, but can you believe nine days (and counting) of sunny near seventy-degree temperatures the last two weeks of October?

The Washington State beekeepers are to be congratulated for a conference that went smoothly and had great content. If you missed the conference, you need to talk to your friends who attended. Much of the information speakers gave out is hard to find from other sources.

You will want to mark your calendar for next year's conference. It will be held November 19, 20, and 21 in Seaside, Oregon. The Oregon State Beekeepers will be hosting this joint conference with Washington.

The latest Oregon State University agriculture newsletter gave an update on the endowment started by OSBA. We hope this endowment will some day pay for an endowed chair of beekeeping at OSU. If you wish to contribute, see information on the process in this issue *The Bee Line* or on the OSBA web page at www.orsba.org. [Please use current information. Changes have been made in information provided previously.]

The individual selected for the professorship related to beekeeping funded by the State Legislature should be in place by the first of the year. This person and an assistant will be available to help the beekeeping community. There is only one year's funding for the position at this time. Let's keep our fingers crossed for additional support.

I hope your beehives are full of nice fat young bees waiting out the winter and giving you hope for the coming year. I expect you are looking at the bee catalogs and anticipating the arrival of new equipment for those new hives next year. Don't forget to include more honey supers and a bigger extractor for next year's honey crop. You just know it is going to be the biggest one yet.

—Chuck

MINUTES—EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

*Vancouver, Washington
October 16, 2008*

Treasurer's Report

Patricia Swenson reviewed income and expenses, and noted that the accounting for the 2007 conference, which netted OSBA a total of \$500, now reflects the additional travel expense of \$335 submitted by Virginia Webb after her last report. This is a small margin, and the conference made money rather than lost only because so many presenters donated travel costs and the like. We owe them very much thanks. Next year's conference will likely be another regional one including Washington.

The balance for the magazine subscriptions that OSBA renews for members is a bit off because some members renew with outdated forms at a reduced cost; Patricia allows OSBA to pick up the difference out of courtesy.

The newsletter is covering its costs because of advertisers to whom we owe a huge thank you. After some discussion of an article featuring Jordan Dimock in this summer's *American Bee Journal*, Mark Johnson moved that a subscription to that magazine and to *Bee Culture* be sent to the newsletter editor. Jordan seconded. [Thank you.]

The research funds that were to go into a CD are still liquid at a good rate. Last year's taxes have been extended to November 15.

Regional Reports

Eastern Oregon

Jordan noted that the area is doing OK, though there has been some trouble controlling mites.

Southern Oregon

John Jacob said that the group has seen a good increase in the number of members. They have asked to use a larger room at the meeting facility because they have 30-40 present at meetings now. Despite their involvement in Extension, additional steps need to be taken to allow this to happen because Extension follows rules set by the county rather than by Oregon State University. The group is going to have colonies for education on the grounds. In addition, starting in

spring, they will have Saturday meetings to support this. The small hive beetle seems to be in check.

Old Business

2008 Conference

With Washington hosting the conference this year, we have an opportunity to watch for things that we might want to incorporate in our own future conference planning. We know that the timing is less than optimal for many beekeepers who are still working to feed, move, and ensure that their colonies are on track. In addition, we may want to continue an option for a discount for early registration when we host.

The Apiculture Fund

Kenny Williams noted that he met with Oregon State University in June. Anita Azarenko, of OSU's Horticulture Department, attended the meeting, as did representatives of the OSU Foundation and the Farm Bureau. Mike Weber of Central Oregon Seed, Inc., also participated by video link. Kenny was told then that the University, the Foundation, and the Farm Bureau could not support the endowment that the OSU Foundation signed with us last year.

The understanding now is that they are not able to suggest that people donate to it. Anita indicated that she ran it past two tree-fruit growers who said it was OK—except that they did not like the sentence indicating that if the funds were to be used in a way that was contrary to the intent of the agreement, then the principle would revert to OSBA with the option to create a new endowment at the Foundation whose proceeds could be used at another institution engaged in apiculture research.

Kenny noted that he had worked to get input on this from Todd Bastian at the OSU Foundation for some time. When he could get no response, he finally went to Todd's boss, who was the one to suggest the language addressing the need to honor the intent of the agreement. Kenny also noted that OSBA, Dean Dutson, and the OSU Foundation all signed the agreement. He suggested that the language of the OSBA endowment agreement could be modified to address the principle concern. Alternatively, the problem may be that if the money were to be returned, it should then be returned to the donors. The concern

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Minutes—Continued from page 3

for OSBA is that the money needs to go to apiculture, which is the intent of the donors. There may be a need to create a separate agreement if the money were to be transferred. Kenny asked Anita to get together to amend the agreement, and she and the representative of the OSU Foundation agreed to this. The meeting was to take place in July. Anita said she would set up a meeting, but at present that has not yet happened.

In the weeks following this meeting, Anita was to attend meetings of grower associations where she hoped to promote an endowment for the hiring of a honey bee entomologist. There was not time to amend the Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension and Education. The university had already taken steps to set up a different fund. This second fund is titled the Apiculture Professorship Fund and indicates that, if the contributions cannot be spent on honey bees, they will be used in a manner as close to this as possible. Anita e-mailed Kenny a copy of the pledge agreement being used to generate funds. It is a one-page contract that is relatively unspecific and contains no review committee. Todd Bastian has told Kenny that the OSU Foundation is no longer writing agreements that contain review committees.

The OSBA endowment now contains approximately \$37,000. The OSU fund contains an additional contribution from Mike Weber. Kenny noted that he had spent two or three years working to make the language of the agreement acceptable to both beekeepers of OSBA and the OSU Foundation. There is concern now that this additional similar agreement will divide the energy and effort needed to make an endowment grow. The Oregon State Beekeepers' Association worked to obtain enough funds to start the endowment with the OSU Foundation because the Foundation suggested they were set up to and would work on fundraising. To date, the Foundation has not supported the OSBA endowment to the degree they had indicated earlier, and Kenny said he intends to pursue this matter over the next month.

Concern exists that anyone who might want to contribute to the OSBA endowment at this time might instead be steered by the Foundation to the OSU fund, in large part because of the similarity of the names. The OSU *Apiculture Professorship Fund* is very similar

in name to the short name for the OSBA endowment, *The Apiculture Fund*, which OSBA has used since the agreement was signed.

Diagnostic Lab

Jim Young at Oregon State University is to spend 15 percent of his time on honey bee work (about six hours a week), but is not a honey bee entomologist. He is running the Honey Bee Diagnostic Services offered there, but the diagnostic services offered include only things that most beekeepers can identify themselves. The survey he is doing is limited and includes questions, such as how much feed is given per 500 bees, with unclear value. Kenny and Heike invited him to their bee yard early-on to get into some hives so that he could get better oriented to bees and beekeeping, but he has not yet responded to their offer.

Meeting of Growers

A large group of growers and a number of beekeepers met at Oregon State University early summer 2008. The now-retired Dean of Agriculture was present and during the course of the meeting moved from a position of "no way" to one of support for a professorship position for apiculture. Betsy Johnson played a large role in ensuring that this issue is addressed. A committee was appointed and is chaired by a person from the Farm Bureau. The group has met by teleconference. As a result, the legislature has given E-Board funds to support a one-year position for a honey bee entomologist and an assistant.

E-Board Support for Apiculture

The state of Oregon's E-Board funding is not related to the OSBA endowment or to OSU's newly proposed endowment. Its purpose is to hire a honey bee entomologist and support a technician for one year, and to provide supplies for establishing a baseline study for CCD. The position has been advertised now and applications have been reviewed. George Hansen will speak to update the status of the position(s) at the conference.

The Scullen Fund

Associate Dean Stella Coakley at Oregon State University has responsibility for entomology and related issues even though the department has been disbanded. She called Chuck Sowers about a need to review a proposal submitted for Scullen funds. The

project involves white clover pollination with respect to honey bees and bumblebees. It is from the same applicant from a year ago with a similar idea, then with native pollinators. Chuck sent the materials to Harry Vanderpool and Kenny Williams for review. Both responded, but then Coakley called Chuck again to say that three reviews are necessary. Chuck complied in concurring with one of the reviews. The fund can be awarded in increments, and Kenny indicated that he would be willing to support the award at a minimum level. Differences exist as to what constitutes a minimum level, however, and Kenny wants to get all concerned together so that they can provide a consensus recommendation. He has suggested a conference call, but has not heard back from Coakley's office for two weeks or so. The concern is to honor the intention of the fund for honey bee research for a project of a graduate student who intends to become a honey bee entomologist and do teaching and/or research in this realm.

Conference Registrations for Regional Groups

Chuck Sowers let the president of each regional group know that they can receive a free conference registration for their group again this year. The registration is to help each group with fundraising and to encourage attendance by those who have not participated in the past. Chuck said he knows of only one response, though there is a possibility of seven. No one has as yet notified Patricia Swenson of the names of those to receive free registration for this year's conference. Although there's a sense that this will be worked out over time, for future awards, steps need to be taken to provide a procedure for groups receiving the funds to respond prior to the conference. In addition, OSBA may want to provide recommendations to the groups for ways they might use the registration.

North/South Representation for the Willamette Valley

Chuck indicated that he did not follow through on procedures needed to create representatives for both the north and the south Willamette Valley. This will become a topic for next year.

New Business

2009 Convention

Next year's convention will take place at the Seaside Convention Center November 19–21, the weekend

before Thanksgiving. These were the only dates available, even though this is a year ahead of time. The convention center has no connected hotel/motel, but several are located nearby. This is a "plus" in that we do not have to meet criteria for numbers of rooms or meals. The facility is the one that Harry Vanderpool negotiated and is quite large. In addition, the center has kindly given us the same rate as they offered Harry three years ago. Among considerations for the conference are the following:

- ❖ The larger space will hold more vendors and potential demonstrations.
- ❖ We may want to provide additional time between speakers.
- ❖ Door prizes could be offered to encourage people to return to the presentations on time.
- ❖ We could provide a discount for early registration.
- ❖ We may want to continue the auctions as we have done in the past.

Upcoming Board Meetings

Kenny will work to meet with Anita Azarenko to gain information that clarifies what is happening with regard to both the OSBA and OSU funds at Oregon State. The Board will meet to review information that might clarify things and help us better understand the intent of the funds OSU is generating for its newly proposed endowment. We also need to learn whether or not and how it might be that the OSU Foundation may support the OSBA endowment. The next meeting will be on November 22 to discuss this and other issues, including the application procedures for funds and the need for a nominating committee for 2009 officers. In addition, the Board will schedule a meeting in August/September next year to look into nominations for officers prior to the conference and to finalize any remaining details. Idaho beekeepers are growing in number. They are having their own conference this year, but want to be kept in the loop for the future. John Jacob suggested that future meetings might be set up through the OSBA Web site to avoid travel. This would entail a small fee for a conference call and a password.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanna Mattingly

MINUTES—GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

*Vancouver, Washington
October 17, 2008*

The General Business Meeting of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association was called to order by Chuck Sowers. A motion was made to dispense with reading the minutes from the previous General Business Meeting and accept them as printed in *The Bee Line*. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Patricia Swenson presented membership with the Treasurer's Report. She explained that *The Bee Line* is no longer in the red as it has been in past years. She also mentioned that dues can be paid at this conference or mailed in. Our treasury is growing and we need to use some of this money now to help bees.

In discussion, Patricia said that last year the Banquet Auction brought in \$8569 to the Research Fund and the Silent Auction income was \$948.00. George Hansen moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report; this was seconded by Andy Angstrom and approved. Chuck Sowers gave Patricia thanks for her hard work as the Treasurer.

Regional Representatives

Discussion was held by Regional Representatives with a consensus that more new beekeepers are attending meetings and becoming involved with beekeeping. Willamette Valley Beekeepers also said that their first Bee Day was quite successful. The Lane County group is doing great and interest is very high. They are now sending their newsletter by e-mail with color pictures. In the Columbia Gorge, Deb Morgan has no organization, but she visits schools to further education about honey bees.

Old Business

Chuck Sowers informed the membership that Oregon State University has now created another endowment with a very similar name, and he is concerned that money may be misdirected to this new fund. We need to work on this issue to change the language in our endowment and make certain that any funds meant to be sent to our fund actually arrive there. There will be more discussion on this topic at a later date.

There was an intention of splitting the Willamette Valley group from the 2007 meeting. This did not get advertised in *The Bee Line* as required by the bylaws, so it was not done. It can be worked on in 2009.

New Business

2009 Conference

Mark Johnson said that the Seaside Convention Center will apply our previous downpayment toward the costs for the 2009 Conference. We will have another NW Corner Meeting and the date selected is November 19, 20, and 21. Washington wants to participate with us, and Mark has already approached speakers.

Elections

Kenny Williams read a list of current officers and Regional Representatives and opened things up for nominations from the floor. None were added to the list of nominees. A motion was made to accept the nominees as presented. It was seconded by George Hansen. The vote carried.

OSU Position and Other New Business

George Hansen made reference to the new OSU position and how we can help fund this position. He made a motion to the Board to welcome requests from those at OSU submitting proposals for up to \$15,000. It was seconded and approved. Deb Morgan made a motion to help fund the Washington State Bee Lab or a student. The motion was seconded by Marge Ehry and approved by the membership.

The OSBA donated one conference registration for each club to be used as encouragement or reward during the year. Chuck suggested that we continue this into next year. A motion was made by George Hansen, seconded by Bob Allen, to continue to support our regional organizations by providing each with one free registration (motel not included). The motion was approved. A motion was made by Herb Brasington to allow the OSBA Board to reward State Fair participants with a potential free conference registration, as we have done in the past. It was seconded and approved. There was some discussion about the use of money from the Honey Show, which was significant in 2007, for rewards and prizes. This will be decided at the Board's discretion.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Lohman

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

For meeting and other information about the group,
please contact the officers.
President: Bob Allen; (503) 322-3819
Vice President: Terry Fullan
(503) 368-7160; tfullan@nehalem.tel.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

The third weekend of January 2009 will find LCBA once again having an information booth at the Good Earth Home Show at the Lane County Fairgrounds. Our booth has been the same for the past several years. If you would like to become involved please let me know! If you have any new ideas or suggestions on how we may make this new or different, we'd love those, too. [Contact Ken at woodrt@pacinfo.com.]

The Great Sunflower Project is done for the year. I've done my last count, and my sunflowers are all dried up. I will be giving out seeds next spring saved from these flowers that were pollinated by my honey bees and several different native bees and flies. You can sign up to be a part of next year's project, along with more than 50,000 who have signed up already. To be a part of this, go to: <http://www.greatsunflower.org/en/four-easy-steps-participate?destination=node%2F7>.

To clarify my suggestion at the September meeting to remove extra honey and freeze honey frames you want to keep for your bees. Well, some members said they just leave them on the hive above the brood boxes. Two things I should have mentioned are: (1) if you need to treat your hives with chemical miticides, these boxes and frames cannot be used for honey supers any longer and (2) come spring, the queen will move up into them and lay eggs, thus turning them into a brood chamber. On the other hand, the bottom box most likely will be empty by spring and just removing that bottom box could be an easy way to cull old brood comb.

I store my honey frames wet and many disagreed with this practice, saying that they put the frames back on the hives to let the bees clean them up. I have found that getting the bees out the first time is fun, and getting them out a second time is more fun—and if you leave them too long bees will start filling them up with honey again. So, if you do not have a treatment plan then this may work for you. It always comes down to what works best for you. —Ken Ograin

Adapted from: LCBA October 2008 newsletter

Portland-Metro Beekeepers

At our October meeting, President Kerry Haskins led a discussion about preparing for winter with a focus on feeding. Elbert Lowry explained how he fills 2-liter pop bottles with a very heavy sugar syrup and inverts them

with 5–6 very small holes in the cap. Karen Koopman has success with Drivert sugar and avoids the mess of syrup. She believes it helps keep the hive drier as well. Kerry uses “candy boards.” He checks his hives once a month through the winter to prevent starvation. Bev Koch emphasized leaving enough honey for the bees each year. If they do get low, she feeds them their own honey as a more-natural energy source. A warning was given that scorched sugar is poisonous for bees.

Kerry learned from Bill Ruhl a method to discourage skunks from scratching on the hive entrance and eating the bees that come out. This is a carpet tack strip, nailed to the entrance to cut back on their scratching. Neither raccoons nor skunks like to walk on chicken wire. Helga Moll uses an electric fence with low wires to short circuit short critters.

The group's annual Christmas dinner will be on Thursday, December 11, at 7PM at our usual meeting place. It is a potluck open to all and includes an optional gift exchange. Bring a gift under \$10 if you want to participate. About three members will be going to the fall conference in Vancouver. —Paul Jarrett

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

For the November meeting, we will be talking about packaging and selling your own honey (small scale). Also we will have our annual honey tasting. Everyone is to bring in some of their honey from this year's harvest for others to try. Biscuits provided by the club. December will be the Christmas dinner, as yet to be decided. Elections will be held at the dinner. There will be a change of hands. —Andrew Schwab

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

The group's discussion on the State Fair centered on the possible move of the booth next year to outside the Jackman-Long building. Of particular concern is the safety of placing the bee cage and entries. Also considered was the poor showing of entries. The group thanks all who helped set up and/or staff the booth. For the future, queens in observation hives need to be marked better, as Gordon's wife's purple fingernail polish doesn't show up well! A question was raised concerning how to contact other beekeepers. This can be difficult because beekeepers are not required to register with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) if they have fewer than five hives. Besides, the DOA

has no enforcement program anymore, so even those with more than five hives may not register. And many beekeepers do not belong to the OSBA or a local chapter such as the WVBA. One advantage of being registered is that beekeepers can receive notification when pesticide spraying is to be done near their bee yard(s).

A reporter for the McMinnville *News Register* requested information about keeping bees in the city. The Planning Commission held a hearing about restricting beekeeping by number of hives and/or location. Mike Rodia forwarded copies of testimony, presented by the OSBA and WVBA to the Albany City Council, to the reporter and the Planning Commission. Most complaints about “bees” involve yellow jackets and/or wasps and not honey bees. Restricting or regulating honey bees does nothing to reduce problems with these other insects.

An “organic” pesticide—Entrust—is being used instead of synthetics and has been reported to kill bees. If used indiscriminately, it can be a problem.

—Adapted from: WVBA October 2008 newsletter

Note: A pamphlet put out by DowAgroSciences (NZ) states: “Entrust Naturalyte is safe to most beneficials such as lacewings, ladybirds, predacious bugs and spiders. However, honey bees, parasitic wasps and flies are affected, albeit by contact with wet spray only. Once the spray is dry, there is no effect—bees can forage normally on flowers and parasites rebound quickly.” From: www.dowagro.com/PublishedLiterature/dh_004c/0901b8038004c362.pdf?filepath=nz/pdfs/noreg/012-00176.pdf&fromPage=GetDoc.

KEEPING BEES IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Todd Balsiger

November and December are two months to enjoy the lack of bee work. That being said, I will still make you think that there is a lot to do by what I write here.

❖ For us in the Northwest, excessive moisture in our hives is one of our biggest concerns. Make sure lids are water tight, that hives are tilted so water drains away, and that there is sufficient ventilation. This is even more important come January when brood

rearing and metabolism increase hive moisture.

- ❖ At this time, the bees are clustered together in dormancy, except for those periodic warm spells that allow the bees to break their cluster, move closer to stored honey, and make those all-important cleansing flights.
- ❖ These periodic warm spells afford the opportunity to visually assess the health of our hives and to do emergency manipulations, if necessary. As a rule, never open a hive in winter unless there’s a good reason and the temperature is at least 45°F, and work around the cluster rather than through it.
- ❖ Take note of colonies that are flying little or not at all during periodic warm spells. Do a cursory check for weight (lift the hive to assess its relative weight) and to determine if the hive is alive (place your ear against the wall, thump it with your hand, and listen for the buzz).
- ❖ For hives low on stores, feed fondant or frames of honey—or retire the colony or let Darwinism run its course. We do not feed syrup at this time as the bees cannot remove the extra moisture. Too much moisture at this time of year leads to dysentery.
- ❖ An ideal way to feed fondant is to use lids with rims and pour the fondant directly into this void. These lids can hold up to five pounds, which may last for two or three weeks.
- ❖ Drivert has been discussed as an alternative to regular fondant. Drivert is composed of 92 percent finely pulverized sucrose plus 8 percent invert sugar. According to C&H, it is “a dry fondant sugar used in icings and pan-coated confections.”
- ❖ For dead-outs, determine why the hive succumbed (usually queenlessness) and make sure frames are free of scale from American foulbrood. Shake out the dead bees, and then clean and return the equipment to storage.
- ❖ Occasionally check your apiary to make sure everything is OK, especially after a wind storm. Check to make sure the lids are secure and verify that animals (e.g., mice, bears, and humans) have not been bothering (e.g., chewing, eating, and vandalizing) the colonies.
- ❖ Consider placing your order for queens now, as demand has increased the last few years.
- ❖ Give honey and/or candles to family, friends, farmers, growers, and others for the holidays.

E-BOARD FUNDING

The research position, titled Assistant Professor/ Senior Research Apiculturist, to be supported with funds from the E-Board has been advertised. Two candidates, Deborah Delaney and Ramesh Sagili, have been selected for interviews in November. Their backgrounds, as indicated in information in the candidates' schedules provided by Oregon State University, include the following:

Deborah Delaney

Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Entomology
North Carolina State University

Education:

Ph.D. dissertation: Genetic characterization of U.S. honey bee populations, Department of Entomology, Washington State University

M.S. thesis: Consequences of coumaphos and *Varroa destructor* on drone honey bee sperm quality, Department of Environmental Science, Oregon State University

B.S. major in natural resources, minor in general fine arts, Oregon State University

Ramesh Sagili

Postdoctoral Research Associate
Department of Entomology
Texas A&M University

Education:

Ph.D. dissertation: Evaluation of physiological and pheromonal factors regulating honey bee foraging and colony growth, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University

M.S. in Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, India

B.S. in Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, India

Information about Oregon State University's Entomology Program is provided at: agsci.oregonstate.edu/entomology.



BEEES IN THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

Ken Ograin

Over the years I have gotten some strange requests about bees—from those who wanted a glass hive in their living room to people wanting to come to my bee yard so they could be stung. Well, when I got a call from the High Desert Museum, my first thought was, *What would a museum of Oregon's High Desert want with bees?* My wife and I have gone to the museum in the past and found it an interesting place to look at desert wildlife and learn about the history of European settlers as well as the state's Native American heritage. After thinking about it, though, I could see that the honey bee has played a large role in the culture and heritage of Oregon from 1855 to the present.

One thing is for sure: Without the honey bee, places like the Hood River, Medford, and the cranberry bogs of the Coast would have a very different look. So, along with some members of the Lane County group, we came up with enough items to fill a room for a display on beekeeping. This will be part of the "Bugs" exhibit that will be featured at the museum through January 2009.

If you get to the Bend area, stop by the museum and check out the cockroaches, millipedes, centipedes, praying mantises, beetles, and honey bees. The museum is located just south of the city of Bend on Highway 97 in central Oregon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conferences

Idaho Honey Industry Association

Boise ID: December 4–6, 2008

The Idaho Honey Industry Association will be having its 2008 conference at the Red Lion Downtowner Hotel in Boise ID December 4–6, 2008. Last year's conference proved to be a real success, with even more people in attendance than we expected. The result was that we had to book a larger hotel for 2008! The Red Lion Downtowner is a great venue for our meeting, and they are offering special room rates for our conference. They can be reached by phone at (208) 344-7691, or on the Internet at redlion.com/boisedowntowner. A complete agenda and conference registration materials will be mailed out to everyone on our mailing list. If you need more information, or you would like to be on our mailing list, you can contact Bill Ahaus at (208) 454-1825, or e-mail bahaus@cablone.net.

We have some exciting speakers lined up for our conference, including Jerry Hayes, who writes "The Classroom" feature in the monthly *American Bee Journal*; Sue Cobey, a UC Davis researcher specializing in queen breeding and bee genetics; Randy Oliver, a Grass Valley CA beekeeper who is very involved in getting the latest research from around the world out to beekeepers who can put it to use; and more to come as we get confirmations from them. We will have several vendors available as well, to display their wares and to field questions about their products and equipment. Last year we had a very successful "Bee School" for hobbyists in attendance, and, though the format will be somewhat different for 2008, we will have a special Saturday Hobbyist/Small-Scale Beekeeper section with several presenters available to speak to issues that concern the growing number of hobbyists and sideliners who will be there.

Canadian Honey Council, Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists, and Ontario Beekeepers Association Annual Convention

Niagara Falls ON: December 10–13, 2008

For information, visit: www.honeycouncil.ca/users/folder.asp@FolderID=4998.htm.

American Honey Producers Convention

Radisson Conference Centre

Fresno CA: January 6–10, 2009

For information, see: www.americanhoneyproducers.org/Conventions/conventions.htm.

North American Beekeeping Conference

Nuget Resort and Casino

Reno/Sparks NV: January 13–17, 2009

For information, see: www.abfnet.org/node/12.

Western Apicultural Society Conference

Healdsburg CA: August 17–20, 2009

For information, including an agenda and conference registration form, visit: groups.ucanr.org/WAS/Conference%5FInformation/.

41st Apimondia International Apicultural Congress

Monpellier, France: September 2009

For information, visit: www.apimondia2009.com/pages/?all=accueil&idl=22.

OSBA/WSBA Convention

Seaside OR: November 19–21, 2009

Bee Schools

Basics of Beekeeping

Ruhl Bee Supply: 10 AM–2 PM—November 22, 2008

Pre-registration is encouraged. Repeats January 10, 2009.

For additional information, visit: www.ruhlbeesupply.com/ClassesandEvents.html.

Bee School

Willamette Valley Beekeepers: 7–9 PM—February 17, 19, and 23, 2009

Bee School

Lane County Beekeepers: March 7, 2009

Bee Masters Short Course

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC:

March 13–20, 2009

For information: e-mail: conference_services@sfu.ca or visit: www.sfu.ca/conferences/beemasters2009.

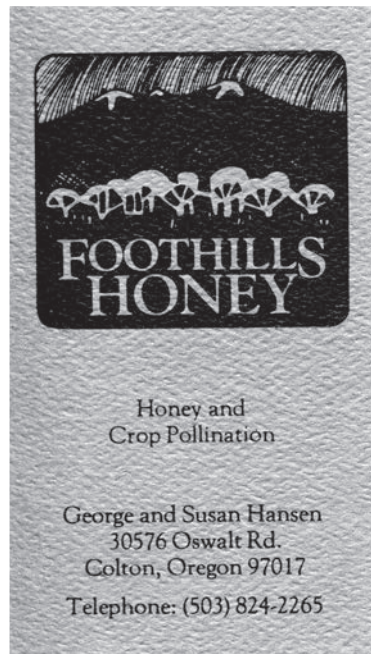
Benefiting First Book—Sue Bee Honey has produced, in conjunction with SKAR Advertising of Omaha, a Special Edition cookbook and Black Madonna Honey, both inspired by the Fox Searchlight Pictures feature film “The Secret Life of Bees,” based on the best-selling novel by Sue Monk Kidd. August Boatwright, played by Queen Latifah, is the family matriarch who operates a successful bee farm and honey-making business. All net proceeds from the sales of the cookbook and Black Madonna Honey go to benefit First Book, a nonprofit organization that gives new books to children from low-income families.

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

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- On the memo line, take care to write:
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Foundation at 850 SW 35th St, Corvallis OR 97333-4015

If you have any questions regarding details of the fund or how to donate, please contact Kenny Williams, Chairman of the OSBA’s Endowment Fund, at (541) 456-2631.

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



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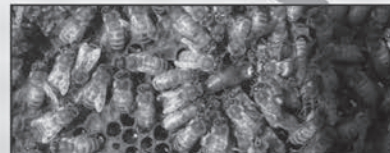
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2009 4-H ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc.

TOPIC: For the 2009 essay contest, the essay topic is: "The Dance Language of Bees"

Honey bees possess the ability to communicate the distance and direction of resources to their nest-mates. They employ a symbolic dance language in which the position of the sun is symbolically represented by gravity, and a trained observer can watch their dances and predict where they are foraging. The use of symbolic language by an insect has made them one of the most studied animals. This year's essay contest invites participants to learn about the honey bee's dance language, how it was discovered, how it works and how it provides colonies the ability to find and exploit floral resources.


The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of the score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources are all evaluated. Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a "Resources" or "Bibliography" list. Note that "honey bee" is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

For details, see: oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/2009BeekeepingRules.pdf.


Note: Open to active 4-H members. Submissions are due in Corvallis February 1, 2009.

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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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Journal (Please note if new subscription or renewal.)	1 year	2 years	3 years
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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) \$ _____

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Amount enclosed: \$ _____

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*With all best of wishes for the winter season and the promise of spring—
the kind of promise that only a honey bee might know.*

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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