The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association

Volume 34, Number 1

January/February 2009

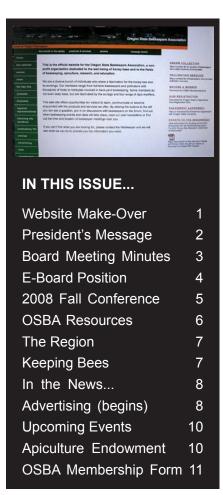


Image above: Home page of the OSBA Web site. Stories, as we know, have "a beginning, a middle, and an end." And, as we also know, it is often that first sentence that is hardest to get onto paper. Sometimes the rest flows a bit more easily from that one. Thom got that first sentence down for the Web site—and then some. Hopefully, the rest will flow at least some degree easier for Herb. Goodness knows, there's more to be written! For that very long first sentence—the planning, organizing, 'ciphering, tracking, and updating—a heart-felt *Thank you, Thom!*

Note: In addition to these changes, the e-mail address for *The Bee Line* is now: osba.newsletter@gmail.com.

WEB SITE UPDATE

Thom Trusewicz

The Web site for the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association, www.orsba.org, has a totally new look about it. Herb Brasington has been working on the update for a couple of months now, and it looks great! If you haven't been there already, do take a look.

Along with the updated site, Herb is taking over the position of Webkeeper for OSBA. I've done it for several years now, and it is time for some fresh management to carry it farther down the road.

During my tenure, the Web site has grown from a few hits per month to thousands of hits. We created a swarm call list with contact information so nearly every swarm in the state can be adopted by a local beekeeper. We created the Events page that featured bee schools and conference opportunities. We created a place where relevant articles could be posted and the Ask the Beekeeper section where people could ask questions and get answers within a day's time. Most questions didn't get posted on the site, but all got a personal answer from me. The most-used feature was and still is the Message Board where people from all over the US and Canada ask and answer questions. They also share stories and photos. There are presently nearly three hundred registered members on our forum.

If anyone has news, events, or newsletters, please send them on to Herb: herb@hwbsystems.com. He will also be contacting those who may want to renew their Web ads for 2009.

I will still be the administrator for the Message Board along with Harry Vanderpool. I'm glad I will still have some time to keep my toes in this part of OSBA. I've recently committed myself for at least a year of service in a leadership position of Oregon Equestrian Trails, which takes up a good portion of my time, and, as you know, there is only so much time to go around.

So please join me as I say: *Welcome Herb*. I'm very impressed by your skills and your enthusiasm for our Web site. Let me know if there is anything I can do for you, Herb.

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: osba.newsletter@gmail.com.

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

Many thanks! Infection

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's the middle of December, and it looks as if the weather is about to change. The dryer and milder past few weeks have let the bees fly and the beekeeper complete late-season tasks. The next days are going to be wetter and much colder. I guess, by the time you read this, you will know if the changing weather has affected your bees.

A few weeks ago, I talked with the owners of two larger bee operations in Oregon. Each had recently removed sticky boards from their hives. They were doing two- or three-day checks of natural mite drops. Both reported much higher counts of mites than they had expected. Counts were somewhat variable, but fifty or more mites seemed common. We were all surprised, since they had treated multiple times during the fall. Today another beekeeper reported the same results during the past week. Repeating the testing, while re-treating his hives, gave mite drops in the thousand or so mites per hive. At best, treating mites seems to be a hit and miss situation. I would expect hives with high mite counts to shrink in size over the winter. The result could be a hive unable to be used for spring pollination—or one not surviving the cold of winter.

More in the spirit of the season, I read about the local bee clubs hosting Christmas gatherings for their December meetings. I expect a good time was had by all. It may be a good time to help a new beekeeper get set up and through their first year. There are so many around who express interest in beekeeping, but they need that little push that gets them going. A little direction during the year can make it a much more satisfying experience.

New Year's is a time for renewing your commitment to whatever you feel is important. I am trying to decide if walking five miles a day, eating less fast food, and maybe a little yoga (or is that yogurt?) would be best for my health and mental state. I have about decided that it would be better to just build more equipment and add a few hundred hives of bees. I just know that this spring my bees are going to be busting out the seams of their homes and will need to be split to stop swarming. I am just as certain that next summer's honey crop will be the biggest ever. More boxes, more frames, more enthusiasm—just what I need.

...and every night they went to sleep with dreams of the greatest honey flow ever circling around in their heads.

—Chuck

MINUTES—EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Canby, Oregon November 22, 2008

Attendees: Chuck Sowers, Harry Vanderpool, Mark Johnson, Herb Brasington, Kenny Williams, Lynn Royce, and Rosanna Mattingly

Chuck called the meeting to order and asked Kenny to begin with his report regarding the endowment. Kenny explained about a meeting he attended with Anita Azarenko and Jack Holpuch of the OSU Foundation, the purpose of which was to see if the language in the last paragraph of our endowment could be changed to clear up confusion to potential donors. The change is to the last two sentences of the agreement.

The current wording: In the unlikely scenario that the Committee determines that the University or the Foundation has willingly used the principal or income from this Fund for any purpose other that as stated in this agreement, the balance of the entire fund, including both principal and undistributed income, will be returned to the OSBA. The OSBA will then have the option of entering into a new agreement with the Foundation to establish a new fund, in which the principal would continue to be managed by the Foundation and the disbursements could be directed to apiculture research at other institutions.

The suggested change in the wording: In the unlikely scenario that the Committee determines that the University or the Foundation has willingly used the principal or income from this Fund for any purpose other that as stated in this agreement, the balance of the entire fund, including both principal and undistributed income, will be used to create a new agreement with the Foundation to establish a new fund, in which the principal would continue to be managed by the Foundation and disbursements directed to apiculture research at other institutions.

The changes would make sure the money in our fund would always be used for apiculture research and make the agreement more appealing to potential donors. Kenny felt that, if the Foundation could not or would not change the wording of the agreement,

it would stand as it now reads and money donated to either our fund or the one established by OSU would be used together to reach the goal of being able to hire a research apiculturist. To request a change, the OSBA would submit a letter signed by Kenny and Chuck. Harry pointed out that this may open the entire agreement to change, including any that the Foundation might like to make. Discussion followed, and it was felt by the group that it might be prudent to check with an attorney before submitting the letter. Mark moved that we reaffirm the approval for Kenny to talk with an attorney for up to two hours at OSBA expense regarding the Foundation agreement. Seconded by Herb, the motion carried.

Minutes of the OSBA Board Meeting October 16, 2008, were read and accepted as read. Minutes of the OSBA General Meeting October 17, 2008, were read and accepted with the amendment that Deb Morgan's motion to help WSU included the amount of \$5,000. Herb moved we accept these minutes as amended. The movement was seconded and carried.

Kenny introduced Jack Holpuch, OSU Foundation Associate Director of Development, College of Agricultural Sciences, who arrived to discuss the honey bee research endowments and the proposed changes the OSBA endowment. Jack explained that potential donors are given any endowment agreement that pertains to their passion, and they are allowed to decide if any of the agreements meet their expectations. They would also be told that they can start their own endowment and name it after themselves, their family, or whatever they want. Minimum start-up funds for an endowment are \$25,000.

Jack seemed very positive regarding the changes Kenny has suggested for our endowment, saying that the change in wording clarifies the intent and makes it more appealing to donors. He went on to discuss the existing endowments for honey bee research: ours (OSBA) and the OSU Bee Research Fund. He said that both have the same goal, that of hiring a honey bee researcher. Therefore, when both funds add up to \$1.5 million, a hire can be made. Jack took questions, and it became clear that the new fund has not yet been fully established. The donation to start it is \$5,000 per year for five years, and it will take four more years to reach

Continued on page 4

Minutes—Continued from page 3

\$25,000. This pledge has come from Central Oregon Seed. Jack thanked us for inviting him and then took his leave.

Herb reported that he and Patricia have been discussing the difficulty the OSBA Treasurer has in using a hardcopy to enter into Quicken, then taking that data and entering it into Excel. Herb pointed out that there is new accounting software that would remove some of the steps and streamline the work for the Treasurer. These new tools might run \$10 per month for the OSBA. Mark moved that the Board authorize up to \$200 for accounting software that Herb could then help Patricia set up. Harry seconded, and the motion carried.

Wording to split the Willamette Valley into North and South regions, thus adding one more director to the Board, was discussed. Rosanna agreed to come up with the final version to be published in *The Bee Line* as required by the OSBA bylaws for a constitutional change. It could then be voted on at the next general meeting during the fall convention in 2009.

At the 2008 General Meeting, Deb Morgan made a motion to help fund the Washington State Bee Lab or a student with \$5,000. Steve Sheppard is to send us a proposal for this amount. Kenny moved that a Research Proposal Review Committee be established. This first committee will (1) set up guidelines for submitting proposals each year and (2) review the submitted proposals and make recommendations to the OSBA Board. The committee will also have to request that Steve Sheppard submit a proposal so that the money can be dispersed to his lab this funding cycle. Lynn and Harry were nominated as the members of this committee. Mark seconded, and the motion carried.

Chuck brought up the free conference registration for clubs and discussed ways to make it work better. He agreed to come up with a form that winners could submit with their registration.

Kenny reported on the Scullen Fund. An applicant was considered by the proposal review committee that includes Chuck, Kenny, and Harry. One of the University members suggested that this proposal be

declined and the funds held until the new hire of the honey bee research position is made. This suggestion was accepted by the committee.

The final bit of Business was New Business regarding the next convention at Seaside on November 19, 20, and 21, 2009. There will be a registration discount for early registration. Two speakers have accepted: Dewey Caron and Dirk Olsen. Dirk will talk about overwintering honey bees in a building. Registration fee amounts, food, and other conference matters were discussed and will be finalized by the Conference Committee.

Chuck reported on the new hire for honey bee research at OSU, and said that an offer has been made and we are all waiting.

Herb reported on the Web site. Thom is giving up the position of Webmaster. We are grateful for all the work he has done with the Web site and bee school. Herb is taking over and has made some changes that he invites us to work with before it is finalized for the general membership.

Respectfully submitted,

-Lynn Royce

E-BOARD POSITION AT OREGON STATE

Lynn Royce

Two candidates were interviewed for the interim honey bee research position at Oregon State University. Seminars were November 5 and 7, respectively, for Ramesh Sagili and Debbie Delaney. They both have been working as post-doctorate fellows—Ramesh in Texas and Debbie in North Carolina. Both candidates showed a lot of enthusiasm for honey bees and the position, and both gave excellent seminars.

Ramesh would look into honey bee nutrition. He talked about his research feeding bees with a single pollen (almond) and comparing them with bees fed a mix of pollens. He has also done some work with brood pheromone, such as how it shapes worker behavior in a colony. Ramesh did experiments to determine whether or not brood pheromone would be

useful to stimulate bees to use pollen substitutes fed during pollen dearth, such as occurs during winter. He was enthusiastic about outreach and extension. And he discussed where he would look for grant money to continue his research. In this discussion, he brought up the Pherotech International, Inc., interest in brood pheromone and Monsanto. This last causes me some concern because of the potential for bias in research funded by monies from businesses that would benefit from the research.

Debbie talked about the reproductive health of honey bees and discussed the genetic diversity of our bees in the US. She explained the honey bee introduction to the New World in the seventeenth century. These bees were Apis mellifera mellifera, the German black bee. It was another two hundred years before any other honey bees were imported, and then only seven other lines including ligustica, carnica, and caucasica that are still here today. She explained that the honey bee population in the eastern US is different from that in the western US. Not only are there few races or subspecies of Apis mellifera in the US, but also there are not many queen breeders, so a few mother queens are used to produce daughters for US beekeepers. One problem is how well mated these daughters are. Debbie has found that, in the US, 16 percent are poorly mated and 68 percent, inadequately mated. Poorly mated queens have less than three million sperm stored in their spermatheca and inadequately mated queens have only five million. A well-mated queen will store seven million sperm. Her fascination with lines of honey bees in the US has led her to look at feral colonies, work that now covers all of the US. Debbie is getting help from the public in this work through the Web site: savethehives.com.

The search committee will give their recommendation to the Dean, but the Dean will make the final decision.

Note: The research interests of both candidates remain of interest to us. As this issue of the newsletter goes to print in mid-December, no additional information regarding either the position or the hiring process is available. As Lynn reports in the Board Meeting minutes printed in this issue, Chuck has been able to tell us that an offer has been made, but no more than that. So, yes, "we are all waiting"—and hoping for the best possible outcome to further the health and sustainable management of the honey bee colony.

FALL CONFERENCE 2008

Patricia Swenson has tallied the proceeds from this year's fall conference. For the Banquet Auction, she reports that Oregon bidders donated \$2821; those from out of state (either Washington or Oregon) contributed \$2860. Washington hosted the conference, yet shared half of the total from out of state with OSBA. This provides an additional \$1430. The total proceeds to OSBA from the Banquet Auction thus amount to \$4251.

The Honey Auction proceeds amounted to \$209. Washington State Beekeepers did not participate in the Honey Show, and OSBA received all the proceeds.

Marge Ehry reports the results of this year's Honey Show as follows:

Photo

First place: Bonnie Woodman

Honey

Blackberry First place: Andrew Schwab

Second place: Chuck Sowers

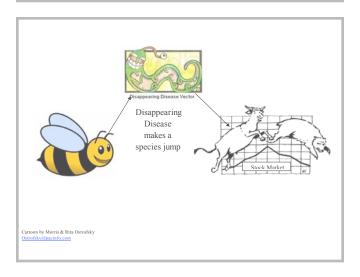
Clover First place: Chuck Sowers

Mixed Class First place: Paul Anderson

Comb Honey

Round First place: Fred VanNatta

Square Judge's Choice: Fred VanNatta



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

Portland Metro Area: Herb Brasington

1881 NE Ashberry Dr, Hillsboro; (503) 701-4180

herb@hwbsystems.com

North Coast: Thom Trusewicz

90041 Logan Rd, Astoria; (503) 325-7966

ccbees@gmail.com
South Coast: Open

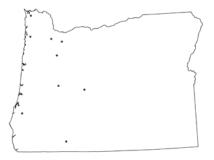
Southern Oregon: Floyd Pawloski

415 Pompadour Dr, Ashland; (541) 482-4797

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

Icbanewslettereditor@hotmail.com

Web site: www.lcbaor.org

Portland-Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7 pm, second Thursday, Oregon City

Clackamas Comm College, Clairmont Hall, Room 118

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; (541) 482-4797

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@nehalemtel.net

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 pm, last Friday, Beaverton OSU Ext, #1400, 18640 SW Walker Rd

President: Herb Brasington

(503) 701-4180; herb@hwbsystems.com

Vice President: Paul Anderson paulanderson@triteksolutions.com

Secretary: Jerry Maasdam; jmaasdam@mac.com **Co-Treasurers:** Brigette and Michael 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

Portland-Metro Beekeepers

The Portland-Metro group is moving their meeting place to Clackamas Community College, Room 118, Clairmont Hall, which is the Horticulture Building. Our first meeting there will be the usual second Thursday on January 8, 2009, at 7 pm.

Directions: Take Hwy 213 off I-205 and turn left onto Beavercreek Rd. Go about a mile and turn right into the Clackamas Community College campus. Take the first left turn at Clairmont Hall and park at the far end of the lot near the greenhouses. Use the last entrance on the parking-lot side of the building. Alternatively, you can enter the campus off of Hwy 213, though you'd have to drive around and through the campus to the other side to reach Clairmont Hall.

Joe proposed that our group maintain a hive or two at the HOS arboretum to use for display and teaching purposes. The arboretum is close to Clairmont Hall. Our group is now subscribing to both *Bee Culture* and the *American Bee Journal*, which are available for check out to our members. Häagen-Dazs has a Web site, www.helpthehoneybees.com, founded to aid bee research at UC Davis. Buying Häagen-Dazs ice cream with the bee logo on the carton contributes to this.

We elected the same roster of rascals for 2009.

Volunteer librarian, Bev Koch, and communications specialist, John Holderness, will also continue their work.

—Paul Javrett and Bev Koch

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

November Meeting: Paul Andersen, Mark Johnson, and Herb Brasington shared what they learned at the WSBA/OSBA annual conference. Each of the attendees then discussed how the their year has gone and most agreed that this was one of the better years in recent memory. Nominations of candidates for association officers were taken and elections will he held at next month's meeting.

The theme of this meeting was annual honey tasting. Todd Balsiger brought some arrowweed honey that was almost water-white! Andrew Schwab brought some very strong tropical honey. In addition, we had everything in between—including meadowfoam, carrot, blackberry, and urban mix. All were very tasty and quite different.

December Meeting: Our traditional Christmas dinner meeting was a potluck with many tasty dishes and wonderful desserts. Jerry Maasdam suggested that we have a potluck at every meeting during the year. The results of election of club officers are: President: Herb Brasington; Vice President: Paul Andersen; Secretary: Jerry Maasdam; Co-Treasurers: Michael and Brigette Hendrickson.

The plan for the January meeting is to have a presentation on queen rearing, which always proves to be very interesting.

—Herb Brasington

KEEPING BEES IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Todd Balsiger

An overall strategy for 2009:

- 1. Breed or purchase mite-fighting bees, the most important thing we can do according to Randy Oliver.
- 2. Adopt integrated pest management practices.
- 3. Use natural chemicals for Varroa control, and synthetics as a last stop.
- 4. Provide nutritional feeding—I believe this is especially true if forage resources are poor in a given area and/or there are many hives located in one area (40+ hives), thereby exceeding the carrying capacity for hives to be well fed. It is better to have a number of yards with fewer hives than just one or two yards with lots of hives.

Okay, now to the tips for January...

- ❖ In general, disturb your bees as little as possible.
- If you are concerned about starvation, lift the back of the hive to assess its weight. Provide emergency feed to featherweight colonies.
- Brood rearing and metabolism increase at this time of year, which adds to hive moisture. Make sure lids are water tight, that hives are tilted so water drains away, and that there is sufficient ventilation.
- Make periodic checks of your apiary, especially after a windstorm, to make sure nothing is amiss.

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Keeping Bees—Continued from page 7

- Prepare for next month's tasks—in the past we have always recommended treating for foulbroods and Varroa mites in February. I know some beekeepers begin these treatments at the end of January, if weather allows.
- ❖ While we are not in the active season, this is a good time to fix, repair, or build beekeeping equipment.
- ❖ You may want to order queens and packages now if you want them early in the season when there's high demand, e.g., during April.

IN THE NEWS...

Nests of *Apis cerana* have been found in the very northern part of Australia for nearly a year now. Having these bees on the Australian continent is in violation of the export permits set up with the US. In addition to being the natural host for Varroa mites and *Nosema ceranae*, *Apis cerana* also hosts *Tropilaelaps clareae*, a mite to which European bees have no known resistance or tolerance. As reported in *Bee Culture*, APHIS is reviewing the situation; potential impact on shipping bees to the US this season is not yet known.

The Almond Board of California reports that the total shipments of California almonds were up 18 percent in 2007/2008 as compared to the previous year. There are indications that the increasing demand for almonds will be met by increasing the supply in 2008/2009. The Board said recently that next year's crop objective is 1.5 billion pounds, based on 660,000 bearing acres (www. foodnavigtor-usa.com).

An online Basics of Beekeeping class is available at the GloryBee Foods Web site. To go directly to the class, visit: www.beeeducation.com.

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UPCOMING EVENTS*

January 6–10: American Honey Producers Convention January 10: Basics of Beekeeping/Ruhl Bee Supply January 13–17: North American Beekeeping Conference February 10: Spring Management/Ruhl Bee Supply February 17, 19, 23: Willamette Valley Bee School March 7: Lane County Bee School March 14: Astoria Bee School

March 13–20: Bee Masters Short Course/Simon Fraser May 1: Deadline for Creative Hive Painting Contest (information at: www.ruhlbeesupply.com)

August 17–20: Western Apicultural Society Conference September 15–20: 41st Apimondia, Monpellier, France November 19–21: NW Corner Beekeepers Conference *See the last issue or the OSBA Web site for information.

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

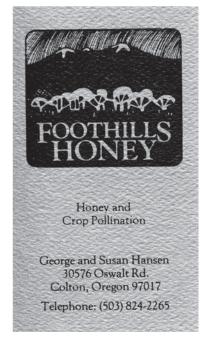
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Membership in the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association is open to anyone with an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. Membership includes a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, and 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.

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