

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association

Volume 35, Number 1

January/February 2010



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Images above: Newly elected OSBA President Jan Lohman (left) and Past President Chuck Sowers (right) engaged in respective conversations during the 2008 Conference held in Vancouver WA and hosted by the Washington State Beekeepers' Association. Photographs were taken by Kenny Williams.

A heartfelt thank you to all outgoing Officers and members of the Board for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the honey bee and beekeeping throughout the region.

INTRODUCING NEW OFFICERS

President Jan Lohman

It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with such an energetic and enthusiastic group of people. The e-mails have been flying since I got home from the Northwest Corner Conference. Firstly, I would like to thank the previous OSBA Officers and Executive Board for all that they did to make it such an incredible conference. Thank you so much Chuck, Mark, Lynn, and Patricia. I know how much time and energy you have given during these past three years, and it is appreciated.

In the future, I would like to see OSBA continue our collaborative efforts with Washington State University and the Washington State Beekeepers' Association. I believe that we can accomplish so much more when we work together toward common goals. I am excited about our new relationship with Oregon State University and Dr. Ramesh Sagili. It has been great to have him available to us this year. I think that I can say for all of us who know him that he has exceeded our expectations. He is willing to take our ideas and incorporate them so that we all benefit from the work he is doing. I look forward to our future together. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Dr. Dewey Caron, and Dr. Michael Burgett all working hard to help us become better beekeepers.

I think that communication is the most important thing we can do for our industry—communication from beekeeper to beekeeper, from beekeeper to grower, from beekeeping organization to beekeeping organization, and from beekeepers to researchers. Please feel free to let me know your concerns. I will do my very best to address them and work toward solutions.

Well, it is “nail-biting” time again. We try to keep ourselves busy until the bees get to California and start to fly. There is so much to think about with equipment to get moved south, loads of bees to move, bills to pay...don't forget to pay the cell phone bill! I have been going to California since 1991, and Vince has been going since 1977. We always worry most of December and January, and then we deal with whatever comes our way. I wish you all healthy honey bee colonies and a wonderful and prosperous New Year.

Vice President Paul Andersen

My history in beekeeping goes back about four years when I became active in the Tualatin Valley branch of OSBA and attended my first

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The Bee Line

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

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as corrections, letters, comments, photographs and stories (old and new), and interviews to: Editor, *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com.

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Copy for articles and for advertising is due by the 10th of the month prior to publication. The next issue to be printed is March 2010.

Thank you!

New Officers—Continued from page 1

convention. Since then I have taken over as editor of the club's newsletter, been involved in several bee-related community activities, and organized with Herb Brasington last spring the first bee school held in our area in recent memory. With some help from Dr. Dewey Caron, we trained about forty people. We got some good publicity with stories in a couple of local papers just before the school started, which helped boost attendance. I believe that community activity and publicity are important for us as beekeepers in order to help promote a positive public awareness of beekeeping and educate people about its critical role in the agricultural economy of Oregon.

Every year my hive count goes up. Over the last summer I was up to eleven hives, and I am currently overwintering seven hives and a nuc. As you can guess, beekeeping is not my primary source of income. I am self-employed as a manufacturer's representative, so I understand the issues and challenges of running your own small business.

As Vice President I am here to help President Jan Lohman and support the goals that the Officers and Board of Directors set for the organization. Generally members provide input to the Officers and Board through the Regional Representatives, but I am always open to listening to anyone who wants to talk, ask a question, or make a comment by phone or e-mail. My contact information is on the Web site and in every *Bee Line*.

Co-Secretary/Treasurer Marjorie Ehry

I am a long-time member of OSBA and have actively worked for and supported the association since 1962. Alan and I were commercial beekeepers running honey bees from Oregon, Washington, North Dakota, to California for forty years. In the past, I have served as OSBA Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, and State President.

In the 1960s, I was instrumental in changing the Oregon State Fair bee exhibit into an "educational" booth with beekeepers from around the state tending and helping out. I also chaired Oregon's Honey Queen Program for several years, resulting in two national queens. Beginning in the 1970s, for twelve years, I put on the OSBA-sponsored State Fair Honey Cooking Contest. I have promoted the honey bee continually by serving in many positions, speaking to school children and various other groups, and belonging to several state and national agricultural organizations that stress the importance of bees to agriculture and production of our food. I was appointed to the National Honey Board in 1988 and served as an alternate member from 1992 to 1995.

Co-Secretary/Treasurer Herb Brasington

I started keeping bees four years ago to fulfill a desire instilled in me by my grandfather when I was young. I have learned to appreciate the honey bee and have worked to understand and experience the work of commercial beekeepers through reading and working bees with them.

I keep twelve hives in the Hillsboro area and have been active in the Tualatin Valley Beekeepers' Association and as OSBA Regional Director for the Portland-Metro area. I have been keeper of the OSBA Web site for the last year. As Co-Secretary/Treasurer, I will work with Marge Ehry and Paul Andersen to conduct outstanding annual conferences and bring my experience both as a small business owner and as treasurer of a number of civic organizations to work on the issues faced by OSBA.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2009 ❖ Seaside, Oregon

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Sowers. The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and a motion was made by Alan Ehry to accept them as printed in *The Bee Line*. The motion was seconded and carried.

Pat Swenson gave the Treasurer's Report. The report represented the entire year minus the income/costs of the current conference. *The Bee Line* is self-sustaining with ads and membership dues at the current time. Research money from donations and our banquet auction is kept in a separate account from general funds and from the research account. As of this report, \$17,000 was given to the Oregon State University Agriculture Research Foundation for Dr. Ramesh Sagili's research program, and \$5,000 was given to the Washington State University Honey Bee Research Program. Other details of the financial report are included with these minutes. Dewey Caron moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and carried.

Old Business

Chuck reported that the Board has approved \$6,000 to be given at this time to Dr. Sagili's research program, \$1,000 be given to the WSU Honey Bee Research Program, and \$500 be given to support Dr.

Michael Burgett's studies of *Apis cerana* in Thailand.

Chuck pointed out that in most years the conference will break even or make money, but there may be times when this is not the case. The Board might want to consider changes that would allow use of some of the auction money to cover the cost of the conference in the future.

Regional Reports

Portland-Metro: Herb Brasington reported that Portland-Metro is active. There were many swarm calls for in the area this year. The Portland-Metro group held their annual Bee Day at George Hansen's. The Tualatin Valley group held a Bee School and participated in Bug Fest, where the media gave bees a bit of publicity.

Willamette Valley: Harry Vanderpool reported that the Bee School was a success and that the group enjoyed presentations from Dr. Dewey Caron and Dr. Ramesh Sagili.

Columbia Basin: No representative at this time.

Eastern Oregon: Jan Lohman reported that Dr. Ramesh Sagili gave instruction to a group of eastern Oregon beekeepers on sampling bee colonies for the baseline study on bee health.

South Coast: The region has had no representative since Joann Olstrom retired.

North Coast: The Astoria group has disbanded. The Tillamook group held a small Bee School this year.

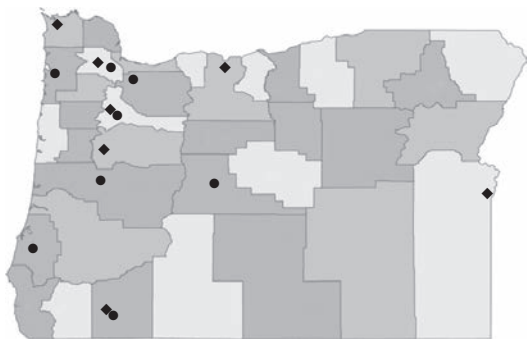
Lane County Beekeepers: This is an active group with 150 members. They have taken part in the Home Show in Eugene, held a Bee School that gave instruction to seventy-five students, and then followed up with a Field Day at MiteBee Farm. They also held a honey-tasting event and have enjoyed presentations by Dr. Dewey Caron and Dr. Ramesh Sagili.

New Business

Research Donations: Chuck mentioned the research grants and suggested that several donations over the period of a year might be looked at more favorably by Oregon State University than a single larger donation. This generated a discussion about giving directly to research at OSU or funneling money through OSBA for research. Either way, individuals will be given a tax receipt and recognition. A report on how money is spent is sent to each donor to the OSU Agriculture Research Foundation.

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OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION RESOURCES



◆ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Columbia Basin: Bill Edwards; 5040 Lost Lake Rd
Hood River 97031; 541.354.2223

Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock
2635 Mitchell Butte Rd, Nyssa 97913; 541.372.2726

Portland-Metro Area: Bev Koch
20495 S Geiger Rd, Oregon City 97045
503.655.7447; johnbev@aracnet.com

North Coast: Terry Fullan
39450 North Fork Rd, Nehalem 97131
503.368.7160; tfullan@nehalem.tel.net

South Coast: Open

Southern Oregon: Floyd Pawlowski
415 Pompadour Dr, Ashland 97520; (541) 482-4797
fmpawlowski@ashlandwireless.net

North Willamette Valley: Harry Vanderpool
7128 Skyline Rd S, Salem 97306; 503.399.3675
shallotman@yahoo.com

South Willamette Valley: Jason Rowan
80881 Turkey Run Rd, Creswell 97426
541.942.6479; beetanical@q.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

Coos County Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Saturday (except December)
Olsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Pt
President: Shigeo Oku; 541.396.4016
Vice President: John Gardner; 541.572.3847
Secretary: Bobbi Gardner; 541.572.3847
Treasurer: Jane Oku; 541.396.4016
jane_oku@hotmail.com

Lane County Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, Eugene
Trinity United Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Rd
President: Judy Scher; 541.344.2114
judy_scher@catdreams.com
Vice President: Barbara Bajec
Secretary: Lane Hillendahl
Treasurer: Nancy Ograin; 541.935.7065
woodrt@pacinfo.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: Jonathon Boulton
jonnyboulton@hotmail.com
Web site: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Tillamook County Beekeepers

For meeting and other information, please contact:
President: Bob Allen; 503.322.3819

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 Andersen
paulande@easystreet.net
Secretary: Jerry Maasdam; jmaasdam@mac.com
Co-Treasurers: Brigitte and Michael Hendrickson
mdhendri@gmail.com

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7 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 ASSOCIATION NEWS

Lane County Beekeepers

The group held its yearly election during the November meeting. The 2010 Executive and Board of Directors includes: Judy Scher, President; Barbara Bajec, Vice President; Nancy Ograin, Treasurer; Lane Hillendahl, Secretary; Katharine Hunt, Past President; and Willard Wisegraver, Bridget Drobac, and Jared Purch, Board Members. Our next meeting will be held January 19th. Ramesh Sagili, Assistant Professor, Apiculture, OSU, will be our guest speaker.

—*Katharine Hunt*

Portland-Metro Beekeepers

The annual Christmas Party will be held December 10th at our Clackamas Community College meeting place. A baked ham will be provided. We will have the traditional voluntary gift exchange, “bring a gift to get a gift.” Elections will be held in January for executive officers. At the November meeting, Dr. Dewey Caron presented “Epidemic of Bee Losses.” He noted that over the last century there have been a progressive series of declining bee populations. However, a major increase in losses began in the 1980s with the infestation of tracheal and Varroa mites. Prior to the mites, yearly losses were in the 10–15 percent range. One study estimates that local 2009 losses for beekeepers with less than thirty-four hives averages 25.8 percent. He discussed Colony Collapse Disorder and recommended that, in a case of CCD, one should not use the hive frames and hive bodies for at least several months as this old hive material will significantly raise the risk of CCD striking the new colony of bees. Dr. Caron shared pictures from OMSI’s Halloween program, where three volunteers allowed themselves to have a bee beard with Portland organic beekeeper John Glen’s bees. The program educated people about bee behavior and was well attended. —*Paul Jarrett*

Tillamook County Beekeepers

We are still trying to keep afloat and started meeting again this past spring. We will skip a meeting in December and begin meeting in January. We held a Bee School in October to start some people in beekeeping and help build our club with some new blood. Six new couples and some of our regulars

attended. We will keep working at building our membership.

—*Robert Allen*

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

We will get together on January 25th with a show-n-tell, goodies, and lots of time to mingle, ask the experts, and share stories. Hopefully, we will have bee vacuums, home-built extractors, home-built wax melters, frame jigs, and other items on display. Also people can bring in dead-outs, messed up frames, or anything else to have an expert to help with or just to show others. At the November meeting, we provided sample bottles from Washington State University for those interested. When filled with one-half cup of bees immersed in alcohol, they can be sent for analysis. At least for now, you can get, for free, a count of Varroa mites, a yes/no for tracheal mites, and a Nosema spore count. Then Kenny Williams spoke to us on “Beekeeping Myths and Misinformation.” There are many different ways to keep and manage bees and many opinions on how, when, and what to do or not do. For new beekeepers this can be quite confusing. On the other hand, listening to or following the advice of only one person can be a mistake. It is best to seek more than one opinion and to weigh various options. Kenny gave examples, and some of his recommendations include the following:

- ❖ Late afternoon rather than morning is the best time to install packages. It is usually cooler then, and there will be less drifting and bees simply flying around.
- ❖ Packages do not do well when sprayed with sugar water. This can cause suffocation of bees and make the packages sticky to handle.
- ❖ The advice to open a hive and check/remove the queen cage after 3–5 days is not a good idea. Early disturbance of the new queen and bees can result in loss of the queen. Rather, leave the hive alone for ten days. Feed with a top feeder or frame feeder with minimal disturbance and no frame manipulations. After 8–10 days, there will be larvae if the queen was released, which will keep the bees busy and less likely to kill the queen.
- ❖ The best queens are Italian or maybe Carniolan. It all depends on the particular traits a beekeeper prefers, whether it be a small winter cluster or early spring build-up or something else such

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Regional Associations—Continued from page 5

as color. In any case, those traits are strongest only when the stock is the purest. To ensure diversity in queen stocks, Kenny buys from several breeders, mainly from California to avoid possible introduction of Africanized bees or small hive beetles from elsewhere. —Mike Rodia

Note: News from the Tualatin Valley association was listed as from Willamette Valley in the November/December issue. I apologize for the error.

KEEPING BEES IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Todd Balsiger

Last year at this time I wrote about the possibility that *Nosema ceranae* may become ubiquitous and displace *N. apis*. This has now happened. It is not known at this time if *N. ceranae* will be more virulent, however. Studies are ongoing to answer this question and to develop treatment guidelines. Also at this time last year, I lamented the possibility of the loss of certain synthetic miticides to control Varroa. Based on what I learned at the fall conference—in particular, how harmful pesticide-laden brood combs are to honey bees (worse than previously thought)—maybe the loss of fluvalinate/coumophos-type miticides is a good thing. I definitely would recommend replacing brood comb that is suspected of having high concentrations of pesticide residue.

My overall strategy recommendations for 2010 are the same as from the last two years (as are the tips):

- ❖ Breed or purchase mite-fighting bees (the most important thing we can do according to Randy Oliver).
- ❖ Adopt integrated pest management practices.
- ❖ Use natural chemicals for Varroa control, and synthetics only as a last option.
- ❖ Provide nutritional feeding. I think this is especially true if the natural carrying capacity is being exceeded and/or the bees are stressed by commercial pollination. It seems that Bee Pro is one of the better commercially available pollen substitutes at this time.

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 (e.g., drivert and a pollen patty) to featherweight colonies.

- ❖ Brood rearing and metabolism increase at this time of year and add to hive moisture, often with condensation dripping down onto the bees. To help prevent this, make sure that lids are water tight, that hives are tilted so water drains away from and not into the hive, and that there is sufficient ventilation.
- ❖ Make periodic checks of your apiary, especially after a windstorm, to make sure nothing is amiss.
- ❖ Prepare for next month's tasks. In recent times, if weather allows, we generally treat for foulbroods and for Varroa in February.
- ❖ For nonprocrastinators, this is a good time to do such things as assemble hive components, fix unresolved problems in the honey house, and take time to go fishing.

NORTHWEST CORNER CONFERENCE

Note: Additional information and insights shared during the 2009 Conference will appear in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Research and Extension at OSU

Dr. Ramesh Sagili

The three primary areas of research conducted since April 2009 at Oregon State University are honey bee nutrition, honey bee health, and pollination. In spite of its importance, there is still a lack of proper understanding about bee nutrition. Nutrition is key in dealing with major stress factors affecting honey bees, such as Varroa, Nosema, viruses, and bacterial diseases. Pollen is the primary source of protein, lipids, minerals, vitamins, and sterols in the honey bee, which are responsible for honey bee longevity and immunity. I am in the process of designing a field test to assess the nutritional status of colonies in the field with use of a Bradford-assay principle to provide a field kit that could be used by the beekeepers to analyze the nutritional status of their colonies. In another nutrition-related study, my lab is comparing single-source pollen consumption versus multiple-source pollen consumption on honey bee physiology, colony growth, and behavior.

The honey bee health baseline study was conducted to establish a baseline for honey bee health in Oregon. For this study, bee samples were obtained from beekeepers (both commercial and backyard beekeepers) across the state for a comprehensive analysis of health. The samples were analyzed for Varroa, Nosema, tracheal mites, AFB, and nutrition. Of the sampled hives, 86 percent had Varroa infestation. Tracheal mites were present in 35.6 percent of sampled hives. In addition, 45.3 percent of sampled hives had Nosema. The mean Nosema spore count was 0.71 ± 0.2 million spores per bee with 1.51 ± 0.5 million spores per bee for the samples that tested positive. Nutrition and AFB analyses are still in process and are expected to be completed in next couple of months. To obtain their respective results, beekeepers who have provided the samples can visit the Web site: entomology.oregonstate.edu/HBcensus. Bee samples were also collected from select commercial operations at different times when the colonies were in different foraging environments (for pollination). Those samples are still being analyzed. The data from these samples will provide us information on the pest and disease status along with nutrition at different times and under different foraging scenarios.

With respect to pollination, I have investigated the potential of honey bee synthetic brood pheromone to increase pollination efficiency in crops, such as carrot seed and blueberry, where adequate pollination is a challenge. I have also studied the potential of using synthetic honey bee brood pheromone in stimulating protein-supplement consumption in honey bee colonies. Preliminary results suggest that brood pheromone increases the consumption of protein supplement and colony growth.

Future research at OSU will continue to focus on nutrition, health, and pollination issues. I plan to continue sampling bee colonies across the state at least two times a year to track the phenology and incidence of various pests and diseases along with nutrition status. I further plan to establish economic thresholds for Nosema and Varroa for the Pacific Northwest. Epidemiology and phenology of *Nosema ceranae* that are not well understood will be another area of focus. Efficacy of Fumagillin and its cost-benefit ratio will be studied. Also, efficacy of other new products for Varroa and Nosema in the market will be tested.

I have organized and participated in several bee

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 Gladstone, Oregon 97027
 503 657 5399

NW Corner, Research—Continued from page 7

schools and workshops across the state. Further, I have addressed beekeepers attending several regional beekeepers’ association meetings and given many invited talks about honey bees and their importance to various diverse groups throughout Oregon.

Epidemic of Bee Losses—Update

Dewey M. Caron

National and international bee declines have made national headlines. The introduction of bee mites and recently the yet-unexplained factor(s) behind the symptom labeled *CCD* have accelerated losses. Although bee loss is nothing new (in 1869 a heavy, unexplained bee die-off was reported in Portland OR), adequate explanations and effective solutions remain elusive.

Mike Burgett on the West Coast and myself on East Coast have been documenting the magnitude of bee losses via beekeeper surveys. Mike sampled commercial (over 330 colonies) and semi-commercial beekeepers in the Pacific Northwest from 1989 to 1998 (reported in *American Bee Journal*, June 2009). Beekeeper average losses were double the presumed normal premite introduction losses. Commercial losses steadily increased over this ten-year span (average 22.6%); semi-commercial losses were below 20 percent for four years and then over 30 percent for the next four years before bouncing down in 1997

then up above 30 percent again in 1998. My survey since 2000 of backyard beekeepers in Delaware and Maryland demonstrated high losses (30% or greater) one year followed by lower losses (~20%) the next. Only in 2007 was CCD identified as the reason for the heavier losses.

Beginning in spring 2007, national losses, some with the CCD-loss syndrome, prompted national surveys that did not include the Pacific Northwest (see links to these surveys at the Web site: maarec.psu.edu). Mike Burgett contacted commercial (over 500 colonies) and semi-commercial beekeepers of Oregon and Washington; with Mike, I resurveyed Oregon/Washington beekeepers this past spring and also asked 100 backyarders in Oregon about their losses. Mike’s 2008 survey documented a 30 percent loss, whereas this past winter we found reduced losses (21%); backyarder losses were higher at 25.8 percent. National surveys, which included owners of 20 percent of the total estimated colony numbers, were higher than this for both years (36% in 2008 and 28.6% in 2009).

Our Pacific Northwest surveys asked if losses were higher or lower than the previous year. Respondents said they were 44 percent higher, and over 40 percent were the same for both survey years. Respondents thought CCD was the factor most responsible for their losses, and it was listed as more responsible in 2009. We asked about replacement and found

ADVERTISE AT www.orsba.org!

To place an ad on the OSBA Web site, include information that you want listed below. Ads for 2010 are \$4 for OSBA members and \$6 for nonmembers. *Swarm Call Listings are Free.*

Name of Advertiser or Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ fax: _____

e-mail: _____ Web Site: _____

Area of coverage for services or deliveries: _____

Product or Service:

- Apitherapy Bee Art and Cards Bee Removal
- Bees Candles Custom Extracting Honey Buyer
- Honey, gallon containers or smaller Honey, buckets or drums
- Pollination, 1–20 hives Pollination, 21 or more hives Pollen
- Propolis Queens Wax, up to 20# Wax, more than 20#
- Swarm Call Listing* *Any other Service or Product not listed*

As appropriate, include a brief description (e.g., in 1# containers) for each listing.

Please make nonrefundable checks payable to OSBA, and mail information with payment to:
Herb Brasington, 1881 NE Ashberry Dr, Hillsboro OR 97124

beekeepers replacing beyond losses, mainly via splits.

What do these surveys tell us? Why are Pacific Northwest losses 15 percent below the national loss level? Why do the backyard (up to 45 colonies) and semi-commercial (50–500 colonies) beekeepers experience higher losses than commercial individuals? Two encouraging findings are the downward trend in losses, and certainly it is encouraging that commercial beekeepers are replacing losses at a rate higher than actual losses, perhaps driven by California almond pollination prices. Equally unexplained so far is why some beekeepers experience heavy losses while others have reasonable losses.

Lacking a factor or factors to explain the epidemic of losses, recommendations are not very robust. If a previously strong colony is suddenly found dead or with a worker population that is too weak to care for the queen and brood (which often shows a number of disease symptoms) in the fall without adult cadavers, the oldest comb should be culled and the equipment aired out before reuse. Feeding colonies protein and a clean-source sugar will help strengthen surviving colonies. Increasing genetic diversity is advisable. Equalizing colonies, a management commercial beekeepers practice, and undue stress (whatever that means) should both be avoided.

IHIA CONFERENCE

Jan Lohman

This has been a busy few weeks with bee conferences. In addition to the Northwest Corner Conference in late November, the Idaho Beekeepers' Conference took place in early December in Boise at the Red Lion Hotel. We had a great time in Idaho visiting with beekeepers and hearing again about some of the very important work being done at Washington State University. Pat Heitkam reminded us that we provide a very valuable service to the almond growers and should make sure that we consider our costs when determining our prices for almond pollination in California.

There was a great discussion by Idaho beekeepers about indoor storage of bees. These beekeepers have spent many years perfecting methods of holding their

bees in buildings and potato-storage facilities for up to eight weeks to help their bees overwinter. Cold is not their enemy; rather, it is heat and power outages!

Jeff Pettis from USDA in Maryland talked about why bees are dying and stresses on honey bees; Gordon Wardell came up from California to talk about protein supplements; and Chris Heintz, the California Project *Apis m.* Director, talked about the projects that *PAm* has taken on and how they distribute research funds to the beekeeping industry.

The Idaho beekeepers are a great group. I encourage you to take the time to visit them in the future. Some of the most memorable times at these meetings are when beekeepers start to reminisce about the “good old days” and you see the pleasure and pride that comes with keeping bees.

2009 PACIFIC NORTHWEST HONEY BEE POLLINATION SURVEY

Michael Burgett

The year 2009 is the 24th year that the Pacific Northwest Honey Bee Pollination Survey has been conducted by the Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab. The survey continues because of renewed interest and funding from the Washington State Beekeepers' Association.

From the survey data, we have learned many things, including the historical trends of increasing pollination fees and usage patterns for the various commodities that utilize honey bees in managed pollination. The survey has provided the strongest and longest database of pollination services for any region of the United States. Numerous beekeepers have reported the usefulness of the survey for their individual beekeeping operations.

I invite and welcome your participation in this year's survey. As concerns any individual beekeeper, all information you provide will be held in confidence. In filling out the form printed on page 10, you do not need to provide your name unless you wish to do so.

Please return the completed form as soon as possible.

Results from the survey will be published in the *OSBA Bee Line*, the *WSBA Keep the “Bee” in Business*, and the *USDA Honey Market News*.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST HONEY BEE POLLINATION SURVEY—2009

The following list includes crops grown in the Pacific Northwest that either require or greatly benefit from honey bee pollination. Please indicate if you used your colonies for pollination of any of these crops during 2009. Return the completed form as soon as possible to:

Michael Burgett, Department of Horticulture, 4017 Ag & Life Sciences
Oregon State University, Corvallis OR 97331

CROP	COUNTY	ACRES POLLINATED	NUMBER OF COLONIES	PRICE PER COLONY
PEAR				
SWEET CHERRY				
APPLE				
BLACKBERRY				
RASPBERRY				
BLUEBERRY				
CRANBERRY				
VEGETABLE SEED				
CLOVER SEED				
Red or White				
Crimson				
Vetch				
RADISH SEED				
CUCUMBER				
SQUASH/PUMPKIN				
WATERMELON				
MEADOWFOAM				
OTHER(S)				
CALIFORNIA ALMONDS				

Do you use a pollination contract with your growers? **Yes** _____ **No** _____ **Sometimes** _____

The number of colonies you owned in **2009**: _____

Estimated percent split of your annual gross beekeeping income among:

Honey sales _____% **Pollination rental** _____% **Other** _____%

Commercial beekeepers only: **How many full-time employees did you have in 2009?** _____

What is your estimated TOTAL cost (in dollars) to maintain one colony of honey bees for one year? \$ _____

CLASSIFIED ADS

Bee Truck for Sale: 1980 Ford ¾-ton 4x4 flatbed with electric swing boom loader. \$1,500 or offer. Contact Oliver Petty at 541.928.7924 or Walt Petty at 541.342.3537.

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Membership Minutes—Continued from page 3

Web Report: Herb talked about the swarm list and the need to rotate names on the list because the person whose name is listed at the top is the one who gets most of the calls. He noted that the Board felt that those on the list should be OSBA members.

The pollen contest is to be on the Web site starting January 1. The contest ad is restricted to Oregon beekeepers. Pictures of pollen foragers with pollen in basket returning to their colony have to include a newspaper with the date visible in the background. Two pictures are required to win: one of a forager in the air and one of the forager on the landing board. The OSBA will match the prize money, up to \$200, put up by Norm Counterman. Prizes will be handled by Ruhl Bee Supply. Herb requested that any suggestions for the Web site be brought to him. Heike Williams asked about the list of honey suppliers—is the charge for this still \$4 per year and is there a way to remind/bill beekeepers so they do not forget to renew? Herb said a reminder could be sent via e-mail with an application form on the Web site and in *The Bee Line*. The Web site is self-supporting.

The Bee Line: Rosanna Mattingly reported that changes in USPS requirements have led to *The Bee Line* no longer being stapled. She is always looking for articles to represent what is happening in the region.

Western Apiculture Society: Dewey Caron reported that the Western Apiculture Society has been around now for thirty-one years. This year's meeting will be number 30. It will be held at the Red Lion Hotel Salem during August 30–September 2, the same week as the Oregon State Fair.

Splitting the Willamette Valley into North and South Regions: The required constitution and bylaw changes for dividing representation of the Willamette Valley into north and south regions have been reported in *The Bee Line*. The membership vote supported the changes to create a region for the North Willamette Valley as that which is north of Albany and a region for the South Willamette Valley as that which is south of Corvallis.

Upcoming Northwest Corner Conferences: The 2010 Conference will be hosted by the Washington State Beekeepers' Association. We hope to have them designate a site by the end of this conference. Suggestions for speakers were requested. The OSBA

will host the 2011 Conference, and we have reserved the Seaside Convention Center again for this meeting the week before Thanksgiving. The earlier months are booked several years out.

Master Bee Program for Oregon: Carolyn Breece asked if OSBA would be interested in supporting a Master Bee Program. She has had a discussion with the organizers of the WSBA program and has a copy of their materials. Washington may be interested in doing a joint Master Bee Program. Chuck suggested that Carolyn get together with the new Board and set up a committee to put this program together. A sign-up sheet for those who were interested in helping was passed around.

Donation: Kerry Haskins spoke about the Bill Ruhl Memorial Bee Day held at George Hansen's. He presented Dr. Sagili a check from earnings that the Portland-Metro group made from that field day.

Elections: Harry Vanderpool gathered the names of nominees and presented them to the membership for voting. For Regional Representatives—

Columbia Basin: Bill Edwards, Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock, North Coast: Terry Fullan, North Willamette Valley: Harry Vanderpool, Portland-Metro: Bev Koch, South Willamette Valley: Jason Rowan, Southern Oregon: Floyd Pawlowski

Further nominations were called for, and none were presented. George Hansen moved that nominations be closed and that these nominees be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

For the OSBA Board—

Co-Secretary/Treasurer: Herb Brasington, Co-Secretary/Treasurer: Marge Ehry, Vice President: Paul Andersen, President: Lynn Royce

Additional nominations were called for, and Jan Lohman was nominated for President. George Hansen moved that we vote on the uncontested positions: Co-Secretary/Treasurers and Vice President. The motion was seconded and carried.

A ballot vote for President was held, and a count of the votes elected Jan Lohman.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Royce

Congratulations to new Lifetime Members of the Oregon State Beekeepers' Association, Alan and Marjorie Ehry!

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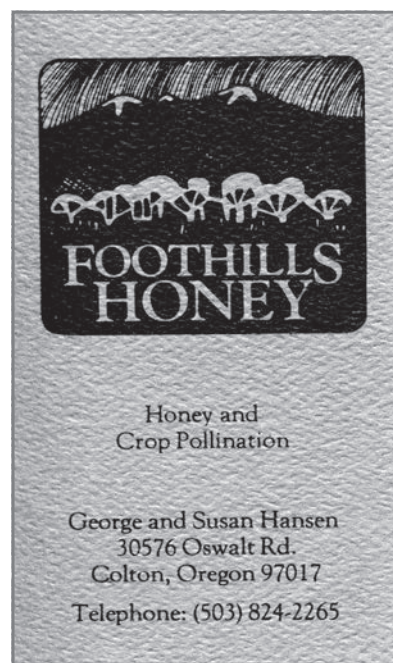
OSU EXTENDS DR. SAGILI'S POSITION

Kenny Williams

I learned this past fall that funding for Dr. Ramesh Sagili's position at Oregon State University has been extended to June of 2011. Initially, Dr. Sagili told me this himself, and subsequently I was able to obtain confirmation from both Anita Azarenko, Head of OSU's Horticulture Department, and Dr. Stella Coakley, Associate Dean in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences. This extension also includes funding to continue the position of Carolyn Breece, Dr. Sagili's assistant.

Specifically, funding was approved by the Legislature for the Ag Experiment Station budget and the Extension budget to extend support for bee health research and extension. In addition, Dr. Jim Young, who was heading up OSU's Honey Bee Diagnostic Lab, has left for a post with USDA, so some of the funding that supported his work can be used to add flexibility to the apiculture program under Dr. Sagili. Dr. Coakley says that there is a chance that the University may receive further funding from the Legislature in the future, continuing the position, but that such funding remains uncertain as tax revenues and the University's budget remain in flux.

Since arriving at OSU in late February of 2009, Dr. Sagili has set up a program to study honey bee nutrition and another to study the effects of feeding single-source pollen on colony health. In addition, he and his assistant have been conducting a colony health survey of Oregon colonies to provide baseline data. This survey has included field workshops around the state in order to train beekeepers in the collection of samples to be sent to the lab. Dr. Sagili is also applying for grant monies to support research.



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THANK YOU

The OSU Honey Bee Lab would like to thank OSBA for the generous donation received at the Northwest Corner Beekeepers' Conference in Seaside. We are grateful for your continued support.

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The Bee Line

Note: As recorded in the minutes printed in the October issue, the Executive Board has voted that OSBA members are to place and renew subscriptions to the *American Bee Journal*, *Bee Culture*, and *The Speedy Bee* on their own. The OSBA Co-Secretary/Treasurer will no longer place these orders for members. When placing your order, take care to renew your subscription before it expires to avoid lapses. In addition, please use the forms provided here to subscribe to magazines at the discounted rates offered to members. In the past, OSBA has paid the additional cost when occasionally members have used "older" forms with lower advertised rates. This "making up the difference" is no longer possible.

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Herb Brasington, OSBA Co-Secretary/Treasurer, 1881 NE Ashberry Dr, Hillsboro OR 97124

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The OSBA respects the privacy of members and will not sell any information provided. May we include your name and contact information in a membership list that will be shared with OSBA members only? **YES/NO** (Please circle one and, if YES, indicate what information is OK to print—for example, name only, name and phone number, all information provided.)

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The Bee Line

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There are certain pursuits which, if not wholly poetic and true, do at least suggest a...finer relation to nature than we know. The keeping of bees, for instance.

—Henry David Thoreau

Very best of wishes for all our relations throughout this new year.

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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