

# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 35, Number 2

March 2010



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**Image above:** A transfer of nectar.

**From:** Postcard from the Tamagawa University Institute of Honey Bee Science, courtesy of Sheryl Johnson.

With the coming of spring, beekeepers have opportunities to venture forth along with their bees. Bee Schools and Bee Days are happening. Make plans to attend one in your area (see listing on page 11, and visit [www.orsba.org](http://www.orsba.org) for updates). In addition, WAS President Dewey Caron, along with Vice President Harry Vanderpool, Program Chair Ramesh Sagili, and Publicity Chair Herb Brasington, invite all to attend the 2010 Western Apicultural Society Conference Monday, August 30th, through Thursday, September 2nd, at the Red Lion Hotel in Salem. Preparations are in the works.

## OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM

*Carolyn Breece*

Despite harrowing accounts of Colony Collapse Disorder and bee decline, it seems backyard beekeeping is steadily increasing in popularity. Local bee clubs are finding new venues to accommodate larger crowds, new clubs are forming, and bee schools are reporting record participation. With many more beekeepers in the state and more folks simply interested in honey bees, it may be time to create additional educational opportunities and expand community outreach. Many states across the country (mostly in the East) accomplish this through a Master Beekeeper program.

Most Master Beekeeper programs are similar to the familiar Master Gardener program. Individuals complete required training and earn a certificate at different levels. A community service component is included at the higher levels. This component is a way to “give back” hours of training and to spread knowledge to others in the community. An example of a successful Master Beekeeper program is that of the Washington State Beekeepers Association. This program has three levels: Apprentice, Journeyman, and Master Beekeeper. The Apprentice level simply requires a passing grade on an open-book exam. At the Journeyman level, several written exams and a field exam must be passed, and one must complete thirty public service points. Public service points may be acquired by teaching Apprentice-level workshops, working at beekeeping exhibits at fairs or other events open to public, writing and publishing articles on beekeeping, and other activities that educate others about beekeeping. The Master level requires additional experience and public service points.

The Oregon Master Beekeeper Planning Committee met recently to discuss the merits of a Master Beekeeper program in Oregon and decided that it is a worthwhile pursuit. We outlined a few reasons in favor of an Oregon Master Beekeeper program:

- ❖ It pushes people to continue educating themselves.
- ❖ It allows for consistency in beekeeper education among local clubs.
- ❖ Consistency in education leads to credibility.
- ❖ The program would increase public awareness of honey bees and beekeeping.
- ❖ It provides hands-on training, whereas some Bee Schools may not.

*Continued on page 10*

### 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*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: [osba.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:osba.newsletter@gmail.com).

#### Advertising Costs Per Issue

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

Classified Ads (30 words):  
Members      \$3.00  
Nonmembers      \$5.00

Please submit copy by the 10th of the month prior to publication. The next issue will be the April 2010 issue. Contact the Editor if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks!

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are here in sometimes sunny California. I have realized that moving our business seven hundred miles south to do almond pollination *takes a village*. Support from our mechanic, our employees, our kids and friends—who take care of the homestead and feed the cat! Poor Molly, she sees the suitcases going into the travel trailer and immediately burrows into the chair in the living room by the fire. There also is a very trustworthy trucker who has been with us for years and makes our business his priority, as well as a kind and diligent accountant who makes sure that we keep up-to-date with the business stuff.

Those are just a few of our villagers. We have so many beekeepers who are on their cell phones daily, making sure to check on each other, check on bees, help find bees, help rent bees, and do what is needed to be ready to pass the word if we need anything. It is an amazing grapevine!

What would we do without our queen producers who give their all to deliver a great product and do their best to make sure our queens arrive on time? And where would we be without our researchers in the Pacific Northwest and nationally who are fighting an uphill battle to help us maintain our colonies? And, last but not least, what would happen without the almond growers who help support our industry as we support theirs. Yes, it does *take a village*. We always heave a sigh of relief when we get here without complications and cannot wait to crack open a lid.

Right now, after five days of bee work, I'm in *The Backache Zone!* I'm not grateful for that, just waiting for the pain to go away or another to join in.

*Don't forget to stop and smell the roses!*

—Jan

#### 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.

**Old Sol Enterprises:** Your source for Oregon-grown queens and nucs. Please order early. Call 541.582.2337 or visit [www.oldsolenterprises.com](http://www.oldsolenterprises.com).

## OSBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2010 ❖ Canby, Oregon

**Attendance:** Jan Lohman, President, Paul Andersen, Vice President, Herb Brasington and Marjie Ehry, Co-Secretary/Treasurers, Chuck Sowers, Past President, Rosanna Mattingly, *Bee Line* Editor, Bob Allen, President Tillamook County, Nancy McFarlane, President Portland-Metro, Beverly Koch, Portland-Metro Rep, Jason Rowan, S Willamette Valley Rep, Terry Fullan, N Coast Rep, Harry Vanderpool, N Willamette Valley Rep, Bill Edwards, Columbia Basin Rep, Jordan Dimock, Eastern Oregon Rep, Kenny Williams, Chair of the Endowment Committee, and two guests

The January 8, 2010, OSBA Board Meeting, held at Chuck Sowers's place in Canby, was called to order at 6:45 PM by President Jan Lohman. Jan asked that we all introduce ourselves and tell a little about our beekeeping experience as this was the first meeting with the new Board.

Minutes of the general membership meeting were read by Marjie. It was moved and seconded that they be accepted as presented.

Herb gave a detailed treasurer's report. The bookwork is now online so anyone can look it over. Herb asked about the money market account and will be checking on moving the money to bring in more interest. He will report at the next meeting on results. Discussion followed on convention expenses and income. Chuck Sowers said we actually made approximately \$5,000 on the conference. Paul Andersen moved to accept the treasurer's report. Motion was seconded and carried.

### Regional Reps and Local Bee Organizations

#### Columbia Basin

Bill reported that there is no organized beekeepers' group in the area, but many beekeepers. He will be reporting on concerns and happenings in the area.

#### Eastern Oregon

Jordan noted that there are only about a half dozen beekeepers in the area, but he will continue working on issues there.

#### Portland-Metro

Beverly asked if there was a job description? She had not seen one. Jan said that this is one thing we will be working on.

#### S Willamette Valley

Jason said that they have not had a meeting yet. He reported that the temperature has been mild, and bees look fine.

#### Southern Oregon

Floyd Pawlowski was unable to attend. He asked that we set a calendar of Board meetings so that we can post them ahead of time.

#### N Willamette Valley

Harry said that the Bee School had been changed from three to four evenings with great attendance.

#### North Coast

Terry reported that beekeepers are meeting the second Tuesday of the month. They have only eight members, but are working to increase numbers.

#### Lane County

Judy Scher was unable to attend, but e-mailed that the Lane County beekeepers have two interests and would like to know the feeling of OSBA toward them. First, the Master Beekeeper Planning Committee. They are sending four members to the meeting on Sunday. Second, the State Standards of Purity for Honey. Will OSBA lobby for a labeling law?

#### Tualatin Valley

Paul said that the Tualatin Valley group is planning their Bee School, and he and Herb are working on a Bee School pamphlet. He passed the draft around for comments.

#### Tillamook County

Bob said that they have a declining membership, but plan on building the club up with interesting programs and issues.

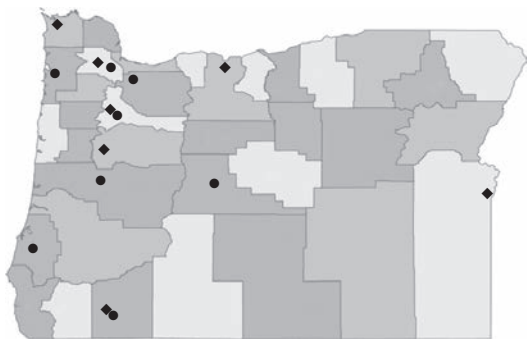
### Old Business

#### 2010 Fall Conference

Washington State Beekeepers Association will be hosting the 2010 Northwest Corner conference and have asked for suggestions for speakers. There will be a conflict on dates for the conference. Jan suggested that we look into holding conferences later in the winter. Marjie said that it had been traditional to hold the fall membership conference in December because of elk season, but dates have been moved earlier in the fall over the years. Jan asked Paul to look into this.

*Continued on page 8*

## 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; 541.482.4797  
fmpawlowski@ashlandwireless.net

**North Willamette Valley:** Harry Vanderpool  
7128 Skyline Rd S, Salem; 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)  
Ohlsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Point  
**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

#### Lane County (continued)

**President:** Judy Scher; 541.344.2114  
judy\_scher@catdreams.com  
**Vice President:** Barbara Bajec; 541.767.9086  
**Secretary:** Lane Hillendahl; 541.942.6838  
**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:** Nancy McFarlane; 503.260.3930  
nancymariemcfarlane@yahoo.com  
**Vice President:** Paul Hardzinski; 503.631.3927  
breadstick@ccwebster.net  
**Secretary:** Alvalea Fong; 503.742.0910  
mamagoose@mac.com  
**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; 503.649.5089  
paulande@easystreet.net  
**Secretary:** Jerry Maasdam; 503.648.7906  
jmaasdam@mac.com  
**Co-Treasurers:** Brigitte and Michael Hendrickson  
503.625.3828; 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:** Patricia Swenson

## REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

### Lane County Beekeepers

Lane County members as well as our bees are getting very productive. The region is anticipating an early spring and an early swarm season. A quick look-see shows us that colonies that made it through the winter are building up earlier than usual. And, as usual, our bees do not reward procrastination!

Dr. Ramesh Sagili gave a wonderful talk on his current research at the annual January supper meeting. This month Chuck Hunt and Jonathan Loftin will be speaking to the club about the production of comb honey. As we look towards the near future, we are gearing up for our yearly one-day Bee School, which will take place on March 6th in Eugene. We are also organizing our annual field day, this year on June 19th at Dr. Lynn Royce's farm; we will be participating in the Spring Propagation Fair at Lane Community College on March 13th and the KLCC garden tour on June 27th.

—*Judy Scher*

### Portland-Metro Beekeepers

There were more people at our January meeting than a usual January meeting—in spite of us electing new officers. With the election, we expressed much gratitude to the outgoing officers. During a brainstorming session on what we want to cover in this year's meetings, we got enough good ideas for the next five years! The last part of the meeting was a discussion about what beekeepers do in January, with or without bees.

In a correction on our last report, the Portland beekeeper who donated his bees to the OMSI bee beard event was Glen Andresen.

—*Bev Koch*

The February meeting was the start of the regime of club president Nancy McFarlane. Some meeting format changes were made, aimed at increasing the time available at each meeting for a round-table discussion by members. Since the time of her election, Nancy has spoken to almost all of the members to ask them about their experience in

beekeeping and what they hope to get from club membership. Many members said that they are hoping to get practical advice and the benefit of the local experience of other members, some of whom are relatively new to beekeeping and some of whom are very knowledgeable. We used Todd Balsiger's "This Month in the Apiary - February/March," from the OSBA Web site, as a guide to general discussion of relevant topics of the moment. Club business will be gone over quarterly, except for urgent and time-sensitive matters.

Elbert Lowry, an experienced beekeeper, long-time member of the club, and the club's expert on the subject, gave a talk on Apitherapy. Apitherapy is generally regarded as being about bee stings and their benefits, and Elbert has a lot of personal experience both in the practice of bee sting therapy and in its benefits for those who live with a variety of issues, such as Multiple Sclerosis, arthritis, and possibly even cancer and heart disease. Elbert considers Apitherapy to also encompass the benefits of other products of bees, pollen in particular, and also honey, beeswax, and propolis. After the discussion of bee stings—always interesting (and humorous)—Elbert talked about collecting, preparing, and using pollen from his colonies. Judging by Elbert's evident good health and energy, we concluded there must be value in Apitherapy.

Bee Day 2010 is scheduled for April 24th. The event will be hosted by George Hansen at Foothills Honey in Colton.

—*John Holderness*

### Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The turnout for the January meeting was good, at about thirty. We are in the process of identifying new officers and hope to elect our slate in February. A very informative discussion was held regarding how to determine what is the cause of a failed colony, after which we went on to our invited speaker, John Edwards of Ruhl Bee Supply. John covered what's new at Ruhl in both services and products. He also made a brief presentation on his version of the Warre hive. Next month we will meet on February 26th, and Ramesh Sagili will be our speaker.

—*Paul Anderson*

## **KEEPING BEES IN FEBRUARY/MARCH**

*Todd Balsiger*

February and August historically have been the two months on the opposite sides of the nectar flow to treat for Varroa mites in Oregon, but this is not written in stone. There are new options for mite control—more each year it seems, and they have different temperature-range requirements and honey-super withdrawal times.

In a nutshell, we do not want our Varroa mite populations to get too high—3,200 is cited as the economic threshold for the US. (This is a number that I researched and found in 2008. I'd like to see research done here in Oregon to develop local threshold estimates based on the colony population and time of the year, as well as an accurate and practical sampling system.) It is important to not skip a treatment window if it means that the threshold number will be exceeded before the next window for treatment occurs.

The need to treat should be based on the current mite population. If you have a high mite population, you should treat immediately. In mid-February, your options are temperature-independent contact. If you have a low mite population, you can delay and treat in March or April with controls that require shorter withdrawal times before supering but higher daily high temperatures for use.

Our most efficacious mite controls buy you about four months, which includes the treatment period before you need to treat again. This period can be extended by using IPM strategies such as mite-tolerant stock and screen bottom boards.

How do you estimate how many mites you have? I will explain two techniques and mention a possible third way: the alcohol wash, the natural drop count, and the powdered sugar drop.

An alcohol wash can be used to estimate Varroa populations with or without the presence of brood. It is simply a ratio of the number of mites per given number of bees multiplied by the total estimated bee population. Then the Varroa population hidden in the brood is factored in. It is estimated that two-thirds of the mites are within the brood itself. An example: Brood is present, and there are 30,000

adult bees. You find five mites in a ¼-cup alcohol wash (about 150 bees). This is equivalent to one mite per 30 bees, or 1,000 mites total on the adult bee population. Add the two-thirds hidden in the brood, and you have roughly 3,000 mites, which is close to the economic threshold number of 3,200 mites.

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

The powdered sugar drop is discussed in the February 2009 issue of *American Bee Journal*. I mention it here as it holds promise. I quote author, Randy Oliver: "It appears to me that a whole-colony mite drop accelerated by sugar dust (or other mite dislodging agent) is likely the most accurate field-practical way to determine a colony's mite level...."

Other tasks aside from worrying about Varroa mites:

- ❖ Heft hives to find any light ones. Provide light hives emergency feed, preferably sugar candy/fondant or frames of honey. This is prime time for starvation, as brood production increases energy demands. When daytime highs exceed 55 degrees, fumagillin medicated syrup can be used instead of fondant or frames of honey.
- ❖ Feed all colonies Terramycin in powdered sugar weekly for three weeks to prevent American and European foulbrood. Terramycin requires at least a four-week withdrawal time between the last antibiotic treatment and the first marketable nectar flow. Tylosin provides up to four weeks of protection with a single treatment, but it is much more persistent and requires a longer withdrawal period before supering than Terramycin. There is a growing problem with Tylosin being detected in US honey. Tylosin is not supposed to be used prophylactically (preventatively).
- ❖ Look for signs of Nosema-infected hives. Symptoms include slow buildup (best indicator), disjointed wings, distended bloated abdomen, and

a lot of yellow streaks on the outside of the hive with crawling bees outside also. These symptoms may also be associated with tracheal mites, but maybe without the yellow streaks and distended abdomens. Make sure that suspect hives have good ventilation and treat with fumagillin syrup. (Follow the directions exactly; overdosing does not help.)

- ❖ Find and remove queenless or dead-out colonies. If pollen is actively being foraged, this generally indicates a healthy colony and queen. Determine why colonies succumb: queenlessness, starvation, disease? If the frames and hive components are free of disease and in good condition (e.g., no *Nosema* spore fecal matter covering everything, no AFB scale in the brood cells, brood frames are less than five years of age), then store for future use in a dry location. Stack on end so air and light can penetrate to discourage mold growth and wax moth activity.
- ❖ Spring usually brings some of the windiest weather, so make sure lids are secured after you break the seals.
- ❖ If you feel your area lacks sufficient natural nectar

flows and pollen to fuel high-energy growth to make full-sized production colonies in time for the main nectar flow (late May), feed fumagillin medicated sugar syrup and pollen substitute when the daily highs exceed 55 degrees.

- ❖ Wax moth activity dramatically picks up when the temperatures rise. Keep an extra eye on stored frames that have had brood and have pollen. Moth crystals (paradichlorobenzene) can be used for control, as well as freezing the frames. Exposing the frames to light can inhibit the moths, too.

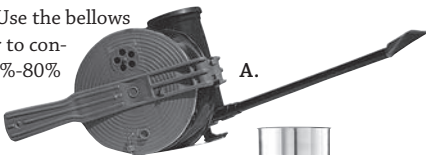
Here's one last thought: Be careful when using a new miticide. I used Apiguard this past fall and deviated from the instructions. I followed the advice of a well-know beekeeper. It proved disastrous. For your information, never place 25 grams of Apiguard between the brood boxes—unless you want about half of your colonies to die. In addition, as Dr. Frank Eischen said at the fall conference, do not use Apiguard if temperatures are above 80 degrees as it will kill brood. I specifically made sure that he was not confused with Formic and that he was referring to Apiguard.

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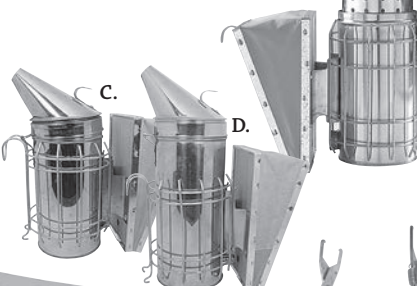
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## ***The Bee Line***

### **Board Meeting—Continued from page 3**

#### **Agriculture Commissions**

Kenny said that the Agriculture Commissions have not been contacted. The plan is to meet and work with them, both in educating and in informing them about the support needed for Dr. Ramesh Sagili. Kenny will be making contacts, and he and Lynn Royce will work with them.

#### **New Business**

##### **Mite-Away II Quick Strips**

Harry spoke on registration and work being done on Mite-Away II. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is very interested. Jan asked Harry to contact Eric Mussen for his take on this and to follow up with any progress.

##### **Honey Swap**

It has been suggested that OSBA do a “Honey Swap” at the conferences. Chuck told how this is handled at the American Beekeeping Federation conferences. The Board expressed interest and suggested that it would be a fun item to add, as well as a chance to try honeys from other beekeepers.

##### **Meeting with OSU Dean**

On Friday, January 8th, Jan Lohman, Harry Vanderpool, and Kenny Williams met with Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, the new OSU Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. They felt it was a very successful meeting as they discussed many issues

pertinent to beekeeping and the Endowment Fund (see report on the meeting, page 11).

##### **Standards for Honey**

There has been much information received on the standards for honey. The Lane County group has expressed concerns.

##### **OSBA Constitution and Bylaws**

At past meetings, there have been several points made and voted on to be changed in the Constitution and Bylaws, but they have not been changed to date. Rosanna is working on the changes.

##### **Standing Committees**

Jan is interested in setting up some standing committees. These are to start with Public Relations and Fairs & Exhibits.

##### ***The Bee Line***

Concern for more advertising in *The Bee Line* was discussed. Past and new advertisers will be contacted.

##### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place in April, with the date to be announced.

Adjournment was moved by Harry and seconded by Jordan. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

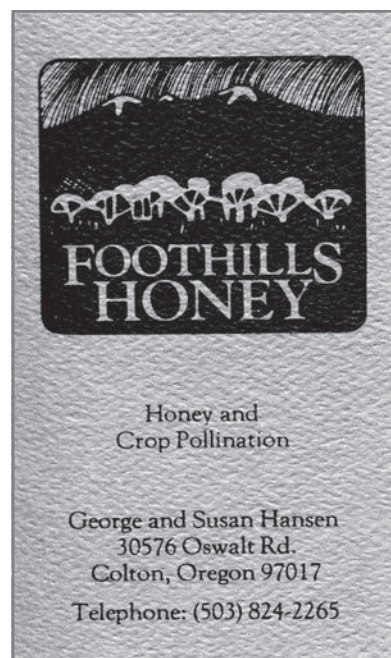
*Marjie Ehry*

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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.





## 2010 ABF CONFERENCE

*Chuck Sowers*

The theme for this year's conference was officially *Keeping the Hive Alive*. Yet, the most repeated statement was, "We said come to *sunny* Orlando, Florida, not to *warm* Florida." Jeanne and I had never been to South Florida, and we went a few days early to visit Epcot and the Kennedy Space Center. It was 28 degrees the first night and only warmed to the high 40s during the day. The temperature didn't slow us down, as we were walking and inside from time to time. It was great to see so many things from the history of the space program and brought back memories of what we grew up seeing on TV and in the newspaper.

The program started on Wednesday with attendees choosing between programs designed for Special Interest Groups. You could choose between Commercial, Package Bee and Queen Breeders, Honey Producer-Packer, or Hobbyist. With hour-long presentations on many subjects, attendees often skipped around the different groups to catch topics of interest to them.

The General Sessions started on Thursday, much like our state conference. In fact, several of the Florida

speakers were also speakers at our last conference. Thursday also was the start of the Serious Sideliner Symposium. This is much like our Hobbyist classes, but for those having a few hundred hives. Topics were about finding markets for pollination rentals and honey sales. Other topics included concerns of women beekeepers, how to prepare wax for sale, and rearing queens on a small scale. Thursday evening's group nonbeekeeping activity was a Sleuth Mystery Dinner Theatre. The lively mystery play (including guessing "Who dun it?") was very entertaining. The dinner wasn't bad, but less memorable.

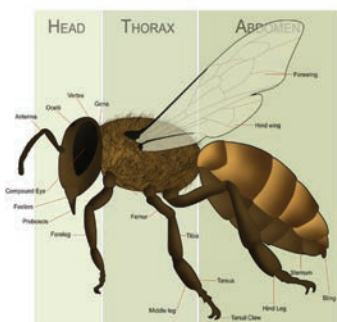
Saturday was a time for workshops on various topics and the closing banquet. A new honey queen and princess were selected from the state queens who were competing for the title. The auction was short, spirited, and quite a money-maker. There was a raffle also, and I am pleased to announce that for the second time I was a winner in the drawing for one of the fourteen prizes. George Hansen won the fishing trip I wanted, but I will settle for the merchandize certificate from Mann Lake.

Come join with us for the next North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow, January 4-8, 2011, at the San Luis Resort in Galveston TX.

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**Master Beekeeper—Continued from page 1**

- ❖ It encourages beekeepers to become active mentors.
- ❖ It gives people confidence.

Washington State Beekeepers Association has kindly offered to assist Oregon in developing a Master Beekeeper program, including offering use of their materials. There also is a possibility of developing a regional Master Beekeeper program to include Pacific Northwest states: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and perhaps northern California. A regional program would offer assistance and guidance to state and local programs, and, best of all, a regional, multi-state program may open the door to funding through grant opportunities.

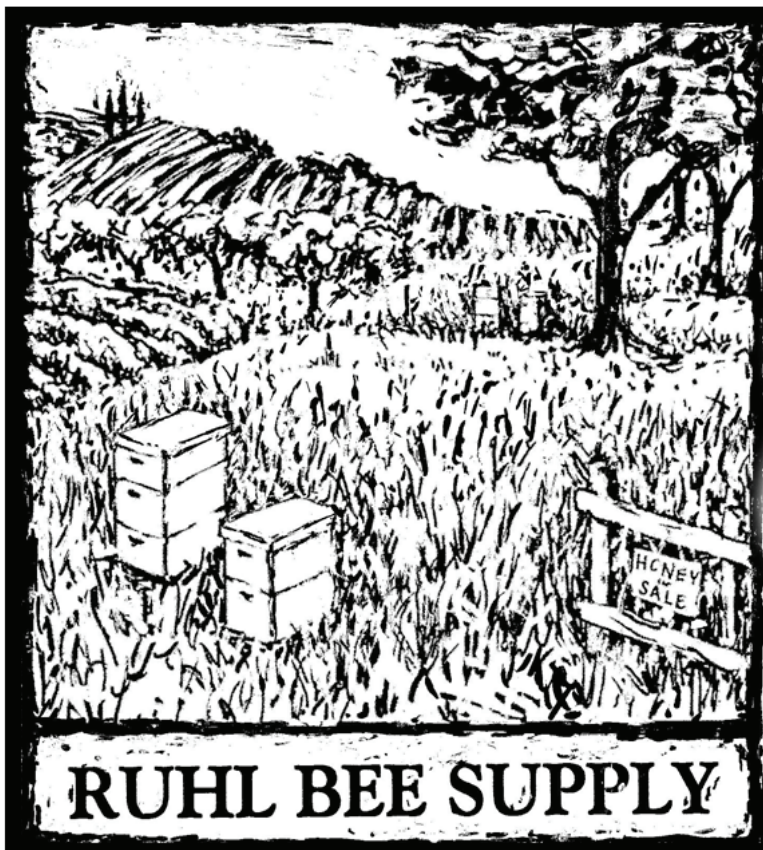
The planning committee will take some time to review existing Master Beekeeper programs and decide on how to proceed with an Oregon Master Beekeeper program. If you have any comments or suggestions, or if you are interested in joining the planning committee, please contact me at [breecec@hort.oregonstate.edu](mailto:breecec@hort.oregonstate.edu) or 541.737.5440.

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## MEETING WITH THE DEAN

*Kenny Williams*

Jan Lohman, Harry Vanderpool, and I met with Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University, on Friday, January 8, 2010, at his office on the OSU campus. Dean Ramaswamy is an entomologist, and he is also director of a CCD Task Force. He is already on top of beekeepers' concerns regarding the value of the honey bee. We found him to be friendly, supportive, gracious, and articulate.

Our purpose in visiting the new Dean was threefold: to introduce ourselves as representatives of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association; to express the appreciation of Oregon beekeepers for Dr. Ramesh Sagili, our industrious new honey bee entomologist; and to bring him up-to-date on the Endowment Fund established by OSBA four years ago.

He gave us a little background on the current climate at OSU. Since 2000, the OSU funding from the Legislature has been reduced by 50 percent, and tuition has increased by 50 percent. In the early 1980s, almost 100 percent of the University's funding came from the State; today it is about 15 percent. The College will probably restructure by combining departments and paring down. If measures 66 and 67 fail during the January 26th election, another twenty-four positions will be closed at the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Regarding Dr. Sagili's position, funding may continue in the Ag Experiment Station budget as recurring funds, but we must await the outcome of the ballot measures and also the next legislative biennium. As Dean, Dr. Ramaswamy is also head of the Ag Experiment Station system.

We also discussed the Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education. I told the Dean that staff members at the OSU Foundation had informed me that, in order to take steps to promote our Endowment Fund, the Foundation needed to receive direction from the Dean to do so. The Dean assured us, emphatically, that he will do so. Furthermore, the Dean is already aware of the existence of a second apiculture endowment, which he found perplexing, and which he will be looking into as well. Our Endowment Fund currently contains close to \$48,000.

## SCHOOL DAYS: Spring 2010

### Lane County Bee School

Saturday, **March 6**

**Information contact:** woodrt@pacinfo.com

### Astoria Bee School

Saturday, **March 13** ❖ 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Columbia Hall, Rm 219, Clatsop Community College, Astoria

**Cost:** \$15 per person; \$25 per family

**Registration:** At the class

**Note:** Please bring a sack lunch.

**Information contact:** Thom Trusewicz at ccbees@gmail.com

### Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Bee School

Monday, **March 15** ❖ 7 PM–9 PM

Saturday, **March 20** ❖ 9 AM–4 PM

Capital Center (SW of SW 185th & Walker Rd intersection), Beaverton

**Cost:** \$30.00 by March 8; \$35 later or at the door

**Registration:** Send check payable to TVBA with name, address, phone, and e-mail to: Chuck

Thompson, 770 NW 114th Ave, Portland OR 97229

**Note:** Sessions will cover What to Expect from Beekeeping, Life Cycle of Honey Bees, Beekeeping Equipment, Safety, Getting Started in Bees, Working with Bees, and Nutrition. Materials and one-year TVBA membership included. Bring a sack lunch Saturday (soft drinks provided).

### Coos County Beekeepers Bee School

Saturday, **March 27** ❖ 9 AM–3 PM

OSU Ohlsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St, Myrtle Point

**Cost:** \$10 preregistered; \$15 at the door

**Registration:** Send name, phone number, address, and check payable to CCBA to CCBA, 922 S Cedar Pt Rd, Coquille OR 97423

**Note:** Sessions will be conducted by Dr. Dewey Caron and Dr. Ramesh Sagili of Oregon State University. Dr. Caron will concentrate on Oregon coastal beekeeping. Bring a sack lunch (snacks provided).

**Information contact:** Jane Oku at 541.396.4016

### Willamette Valley Bee Day

Saturday, **April 10** (tentative date)

### Bill Ruhl Memorial Bee Day

Saturday, **April 24**

Foothills Honey, Colton

## BROOD INSPECTION IS KEY

Dewey M. Caron

At the recent Northwest Corner Conference, I indicated that an early warning sign of a bee colony in poor health, and especially a colony that may succumb to CCD, can be found in the brood chamber. Colonies often “tell” us about their condition; we need to develop the inspection skills to “listen” to the answer.

We should practice “reading the frame” every time we open a hive and inspect the brood. Frame reading takes experience and skill to determine if the colony is healthy, queenright, and likely to expand or contract in brood/adult populations as appropriate for the season. Sometimes we can “read” the colony by inspecting two or three frames, but some colonies take longer to read and we need to inspect additional frames to find answers.

It is a “waste” of time to routinely look for a queen, although, for most beekeepers, immensely satisfying and reassuring to see her. If we want to requeen, we will need to find her for removal; if we are dividing, we usually want her to remain in the original colony so we can successfully requeen the new splits.

But routine inspections supply the information “queenright” when we see normal egg laying—the “normal” appearance of eggs “tells” us a queen was in this colony within the last three days.

Our basic knowledge of brood development—the basics of three days of egg development, six days of larval feeding, and twelve days in capped cells (pupal stage)—equips us to become hive detectives. We need to recognize normal (one egg per cell positioned more or less in center bottom of the cleaned cell) so we can diagnose abnormal. We need to recognize the larger drone cells, where the queen will lay unfertilized eggs. We cannot tell the difference between fertilized and unfertilized eggs, but bees sure can!

It is in the larval stage that we can diagnose the early symptoms of CCD and decline of colonies. Various authors and bee inspection personnel are naming the poor brood health condition by a collection of terms. *Snot brood* or *snotty brood* (more or less descriptive terms for dying bee larvae) are sometimes used, as is *cruddy brood* (you can google both terms for descriptions). I prefer to use the term coined in early 2000s by USDA bee scientists for this condition: *BEE PMS* (Parasitic Mite Syndrome).

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I will be the gladdest thing/Under the sun!  
I will touch a hundred flowers/And not pick one.

**From:** *Afternoon On A Hill*, Edna St. Vincent Millay

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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