

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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August 2010



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Front story: The need for a standard of identity for honey? What would the Europeans who carted honey bees to the Americas think? *Funny honey? Is that the same as funny money?*

Image above: A place for reflection? This month, as the bees and their keepers prepare for the all-too-soon coming of winter, may give way to time to review the season and plan for next. It also may allow time to encourage new keepers of the bees, so that they too are ready in spring when "summer" bees begin to emerge.

HONEY: Standard of Identity Proposed for Oregon

George Hansen

Most beekeepers have at least one anecdote about "funny honey" in the marketplace. Have you looked at the ingredient panel on cereals and other products that have *honey* prominently in the title? All too often, honey is the second or third sweetener by volume, often listed just before salt. How much honey is in the burger chain's "honey sauce"? Is there any honey in the famous "Honey Baked..." chain of restaurants?

Now there are other honey pretenders slowly insinuating themselves into the marketplace. Look at the label and back panel of the squeeze bears in dollar stores. Even some major grocery store chains are stocking "Light Honey" and "Honey Blend" products that are not pure honey.

But, then again, what is honey anyway? There are few court cases that have challenged a product labeled as *honey* having been adulterated with other cheaper sweeteners. And, surprisingly, the outcome of those few cases has not been positive for the honey industry. Why is this? Because there is no official definition of *honey* in US food law. The defendants have been able to convince judges and juries that what they are doing by adding other sweeteners to honey isn't wrong, because who's to say what honey is, anyway? We have our opinion, and they have theirs. It's a free country.

What the honey industry has been asking for is a Standard of Identity for honey to be established by the US Food and Drug Administration, a rule that will stand up in court when a complaint is filed. Interestingly, our trading partners in Europe and elsewhere have created these standards of identity for many foods, including honey. They are referred to as the *Codex standards*, and they are broadly accepted in most developed countries. The *Codex standard* for honey basically says that honey must be produced by bees, not a factory, and it identifies the range of percentages of the major component sugars that occur naturally in honey. The US failed to accept these international standards when they were established, and the FDA has resisted getting involved in this kind of regulation, arguing that they do not have the funding and personnel needed to do this for every kind of food—and, additionally, nobody is dying. They maintain they have much bigger problems to deal with than setting a standard for honey.

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The Bee Line

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Annual subscriptions are included with membership in OSBA.

Send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as your corrections, letters, comments, photographs and stories (both from “old” times and new), interviews, and ads and requests for advertising to me at: *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com.

The deadline for submitting copy is the 10th of the month *prior* to publication. The next issue will be the September 2010 issue. As always, please let me know of any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

Rosanna

Advertising Costs

Per Issue

Business Ads

Business card	\$10.00
Quarter page	\$25.00
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Full page	\$100.00

Classified Ads (30 words)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well folks, I am still waiting for that sunny summer. We are finally having a few warm days, then *Bam!*—another rain or wind storm. Vince keeps shaking his head saying this is the worst summer he’s seen in thirty years. I’m starting to believe him.

The poor bees are finally making a living and are looking better in most places, but some of them are dismal! We are out of honey, as are many of our beekeeping friends, so hopefully those supers will start to fill up. I can see the pollen mixer being pulled out of the warehouse this week and piles of sugar and egg yolks stacked under the overhang—an indicator that pollen patties are imminent. Thankfully, I gave up that job two years ago when Chris jumped in and started making them. Joy—after fifteen years of dust up my nose, I have been replaced. He doesn’t seem to mind!

It is also time for us to get serious with the sticky boards and send samples in to the lab for Varroa checks. We go pretty quickly from our spring work to our fall work without summer in between.

I had a great experience several weeks ago. I attended the Master Beekeeper organizational meeting spearheaded by Carolyn Breece in Corvallis. By the way, she is doing a fantastic job trying to keep a room full of beekeepers on task to get our work done, and it is a great project. While I was in Corvallis, she had a barbeque and invited a lively group. The conversation was busy with bee talk for hours, and I was able to meet the lab techs that help Carolyn and Ramesh with honey bee research. It is wonderful to see such dedicated young people working in our industry and socializing with our OSU Bee Guys, Dr. Burgett and Dr. Sagili. Our future in beekeeping depends on these new young beekeepers to carry on the very important work of raising honey bees.

Again, another reminder of upcoming events: Washington State beekeepers are working hard to plan the Northwest Corner Beekeeping Conference in Hood River, and the Western Apiculture Society Conference will be in Salem this August 30 through September 2.

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy your bees.

Jan

OSU RESEARCH UPDATE

Ramesh Sagili

Greetings! I hope the bees are on the right path after a disastrous May and June weather. As it has been over a year since we started the honey bee research and extension program at Oregon State University, I want to provide a brief overview on the research projects that are either completed or currently in progress at OSU since summer 2009.

Honey Bee Health Baseline Study

This study was conducted in August 2009. For this study, we received ~300 samples from across the state. These samples were analyzed for Varroa, tracheal mites, Nosema, and nutrition. Of the samples tested, 85 percent were positive for Varroa, 48 percent had Nosema, and 39 percent had tracheal mites. The percentage of Varroa infestation was 5.6 percent and mean number of Nosema spores per bee was 1.3 ± 0.4 million for the samples that tested positive for Nosema. We anticipate completing the nutritional status (hypopharyngeal gland protein content) analysis by the end of July and will then try to run a correlation between these four different factors. Unfortunately, we were not able to get the ultimate colony status (alive or dead) from a majority of the participants, and hence we will not be able to correlate these parameters to colony declines. This August we plan to repeat a similar study with a larger sample size. We will obtain final colony status from the participants in order to tease apart the role of each factor in colony declines.

Bee Loss Survey

Along with Dr. Dewey Caron, we conducted a bee loss survey for both Oregon and Washington. The survey was designed to get the colony loss information from October 2009 to April 2010. For Oregon, twenty-two commercial beekeepers (300+ bee colonies) with 37,085 total colonies reported a loss of 9,091 colonies that accounts for a 24.5 percent loss. Oregon semi-commercial beekeepers ($n = 7$) that accounted for a total of 1,098 colonies reported losses of 290 colonies (26.4%). Total percentage of colony decline for Oregon and Washington put together for 2009–2010 was 24.6 percent ($n = 47, 109,475$ colonies). Dr. Caron surveyed 125 small-scale beekeepers in Oregon

during local meetings and reported a total colony loss of 44 percent.

Honey Bee Nutrition

Effects of pollen quality on honey bee nutritional status and colony growth

In this study we are examining and comparing the effects of single-source pollen consumption versus multi-source pollen on honey bee nutritional status and colony growth. This study is in progress, and we expect this to be completed by October 2010. Preliminary results indicate that nurse bee hypopharyngeal gland protein content and colony growth in single-source pollen treatments were significantly low compared to multi-source pollen treatments ($P < 0.01$ and $P < 0.05$, respectively). I will provide the final results and conclusions pertaining to this experiment during October.

Evaluating honey bee temporal nutritional status

We are tracking several beekeeper colonies throughout the year to evaluate their nutritional status when they are placed in different locations in different crops during pollination season. Hypopharyngeal gland protein content of nurse bees is a good indicator of nutritional status of a colony; hence, we are using this parameter in this study. Results from this study will provide us an overview of the nutritional status of the colonies at different times when they are placed in different crops and different regions.

Brood Pheromone Experiments

Following are the two experiments that we are focusing on with respect to brood pheromone:

- ❖ Examining the potential of brood pheromone to enhance protein supplement consumption in colonies during September and October.
- ❖ Evaluating the potential of brood pheromone to enhance pollination efficiency of honey bee colonies in carrot seed crop.

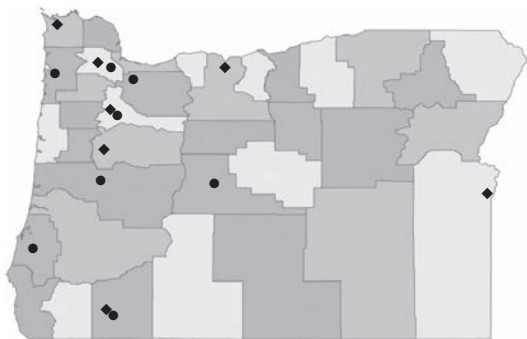
Experiments Planned for 2010–2011

Honey bee health analysis

Statewide sampling of colonies will be done during August 2010 after honey extraction and before applying treatments for analyzing incidence and intensity of Varroa, tracheal mites, and Nosema, along

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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; 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
63211 Service Rd, Suite 130
President: Dennis Gallagher; 541.389.4776
For information, please contact: John Connelly
johncobka@gmail.com

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
Website: www.lcbaor.org

Portland-Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 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
Website: 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 Wednesday, Beaverton
OSU Ext, #1400, 18640 SW Walker Rd
President: Herb Brasington; 503.701.4180
herb@hwbsystems.com
Vice President: Kevin Beckman; 503.539.5996
kevin_beckman2@msn.com
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 7:00 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 ASSOCIATION NEWS

Lane County Beekeepers

Lane County beekeepers have had a very busy July. The KLCC Garden Tour, the LCBA Field Day, and the Oregon Country Fair all took place this month.

Even with a little rain, the LCBA Field Day at Lynn Royce's was a great event this year. Dr. Dewey Caron, Ken Ograin, Heike Williams, and Kenny Williams each demonstrated how they examine a hive. Every hive was a little different, and everyone learned something new at each station. During a rain spell, Heike gave us a bonus look at a queenless nuc. She showed us the small virgin queen from an emergency worker cell, which she had previously removed from the hive. We had great potluck food, and, once again, Lynn made delicious pizza in her outdoor earthen oven. A huge thank you to Dewey, Ken, Kenny, Heike, and Lynn! Thank you, Nancy Ograin—you always give enormous energy in organizing the event! And thanks for all the potluck food contributions.



Judy Scher

Heike Williams holds a frame covered with bees as part of her demonstration on how to examine a hive during the LCBA Field Day at Lynn Royce's.

For the second year, the group hosted a booth at the KLCC Garden Tour at Oakhill School. It turned out to be a quiet day with respect to the number of folks visiting the table. It was nonetheless sunny, pleasant, and fun to talk to folks who did come by with questions about beekeeping. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out: Morris and Rita Ostrofsky, Ivy, Don McLeod, Gary Morgan, Kev and Kelley, and Leslie O.

Arthur and Anita Jones' observation hive at the Oregon Country Fair was a hit at the LCBA/Wild Edibles booth this past weekend. It drew veteran beekeepers and many curious children. This kind of setup is just the thing to encourage future beekeepers. Thank you

At this station, Lane County beekeepers pay close attention while Ken Ograin shares his ways in examining a hive.



Ramesh Sagili

to Don McLeod for organizing this and to all the volunteers who staffed the booth.

July's meeting talk will be given by Ken Ograin on honey extraction and beeswax collection.

—Judy Scher

KEEPING BEES IN AUGUST

Todd Balsiger

- ❖ Remove all supers and configure colonies into winter configuration (generally two deeps) regardless of how well populated you think the hive is! It is okay if the bees lap out the front. It is also possible, as I learned at last year's fall conference, to make nucs out of these extra bees. Food for thought...
- ❖ Treat for Varroa—the earlier the better—preferably before mid month. Our goal is to raise a healthy crop of winter bees, so be sure the treatment does not too adversely impact the bees themselves.
- ❖ Treat for foulbroods by dusting colonies at intervals. Follow directions.
- ❖ Inspect weak colonies and find out why they're in that condition. Often, these colonies are queenless. At this point, options are to requeen with nucs, to combine with queenright colonies, or to shake the bees out and share the frames with other colonies. A side note: Storing frames laden with pollen over the winter usually does not work.
- ❖ Another possibility for a weakened colony is disease, and American foulbrood is the one disease that we really need to watch out for. An AFB-infected colony will collapse and be robbed out, and thereby spread the disease. Do not discount the importance of treating colonies for foulbroods. If you do find AFB, burning the affected colonies is the most practical solution.

❖ Try to minimize robbing behavior. For example, work colonies earlier in the morning, limit the amount of time in a bee yard, avoid leaving goodies out where bees can get to them, and so forth.

❖ Extract as soon as possible after removing supers. Wax moths are very active at this time of year and will quickly find brood and pollen in supers. Wax moths and their larvae are a nuisance during extraction. It is best to avoid them altogether.

❖ Provide water continuously if the bees do not have access to it.

WAX MOTH DRAWN TO A COMB

Dewey Caron

Frames of drawn comb are really a “treasure,” and good frames are our “gold standard.” We need to guard this resource during the fall and early winter when wax moth pressure is highest.

Wax moth is really a misnomer. The caterpillar of the nocturnal moth really feasts on pollen, brood remains, and debris. It will starve on a diet of pure beeswax. If you find a colony overrun with wax moth, it is not correct to say the wax moth “killed” the colony. Your colony was dead or so weak it could not defend against the moth. The moth is actually a good scavenger in that it gets rid of comb that might be diseased or contaminated.

Drawn comb frames used solely for honey storage are not usually subject to wax moth attack unless stored with frames that have been used to rear brood in a warm area. Honey storage combs thus need minimal attention. Store supers in the open on end or loosely stacked so sunlight and air penetrate the boxes. If you have bees clean (i.e., rob) extracted frames, leave the frames on the colonies until cool weather before removal and winter storage. Below 50 degrees, the wax moth is not much of an issue. Keep fall/winter moisture off the combs themselves.

Any comb that has pollen in cells or has been used for brood rearing is favored by wax moth caterpillars. Without adult bee protection, caterpillars can quickly destroy the comb structure if warm enough. Moths fly

and lay eggs at night, so keeping tight stacks of such equipment is not sufficient protection. Putting frames in the freezer or a controlled atmosphere chamber will control the wax moth. The frames can be removed once cold weather arrives. They then can be stored in stacks in a cool location or outdoors exposed to light and air as with super comb.

There is a chemical control, PDB (paradichlorobenzene or 1,4-dichlorobenzene), but this is suspected of causing cancer and residue in comb may not be good for the bees. A biological control, Bt (Certan), controls wax moth, but is available only in Europe. Large amounts of comb from brood chambers of deadouts and such should be protected with PDB. When using PDB, post caution signs on inadvertent entry to areas where it is in use and air the combs for several days before reusing them.

Note: Although Dewey sent this article a few months back, I delayed printing until now as we begin winter preparations. He suggests that beekeepers might also read the article by Ross Conrad in the October 2009 issue of *Bee Culture*.

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Honey Standard—Continued from page 1

Although adulteration of honey may not be causing American citizens to die, it *is* causing an industry to die. Obviously, these diluted products are far cheaper than pure honey, and, if the consumer will accept them, especially if these products are allowed to be labeled as *honey*, then the value of honey produced by beekeepers will drop. Last year, for instance, my crop sold at an average of \$1.45 per pound to a packer. This month, “honey” is being offered to food manufacturers in the \$.80 per pound range by processors willing call an adulterated product *honey*. How long am I likely to find a buyer for my pure honey at prices anything like what I need to stay in business?

Customs (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has an ongoing fraud investigation involving imported honey products, and this activity has several indictments and convictions. Customs activity will help, but, without a legal definition of *honey*, this will not solve the root problem.

What the government is concerned about is fraud—where antidumping duties are not paid, where contaminants are hidden, where products are mislabeled to avoid scrutiny. A product purportedly from Indonesia labeled as *syrup* or *bee feed* will not be charged duties and will not be sampled for banned antibiotics. Yet, if the same product were from China and labeled as *honey*, then significant duties and testing would be standing in the way of delivery to a processor in the US. There is a huge incentive for exporters to avoid regulation. The concern is that both of the above products may very well be ending up on the store shelf labeled as *honey*. Whether the duties have been paid or not, the consumer has no way currently of ensuring the product is pure honey.

Because the FDA has thus far been unwilling to establish a US standard, beekeepers in many states have begun an end run around the federal authority. Led by Florida, and then California and Wisconsin, state after state has enacted its own standard of identity for honey. Thus far, more than twenty-five states have at least begun the process, and they are finding generally friendly receptions at their state houses. In the long run, this patchwork of slightly varied standards will become cumbersome, and the hope is that the FDA will be forced to establish a uniform standard.

The Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Communities Committee of the Oregon House of Representatives recently had a hearing on the subject. With the original request from a beekeeper in Eugene to his Representative, the committee took input from beekeepers Joseph Becker and myself. Joseph is a relatively new beekeeper with a growing colony count. He sells honey in markets and from his home. I am a larger commercial beekeeper and sell my crop to packers. I gave a quick snapshot of the current honey market, and the issues of adulteration and contamination that are threatening our product and industry. I also explained the decade-long attempts on the national industry level to get the FDA to act, as well as the impact that a weakened honey bee industry would have on Oregon agriculture. Joseph had done his homework on the efforts at the state level across the country to enact a standard of identity for honey. He explained the impact of adulterated product on his business and its future, as well as the potential threat to consumers of contaminated honey on the shelf. Both of us felt that the members of the committee understood the issue and were willing to move forward with the request, especially since the Department of Agriculture representatives present at the hearing expressed the desire to assist in making this happen.

Preliminary communications with some of the committee members have been made to identify next steps. The legislature is not in session right now, but we can hope this will move forward after the house reconvenes in regular session.

Note: The *Codex* is posted at: www.codexalimentarius.net. The definition it provides of *honey* is quoted as follows:

2.1 DEFINITION

Honey is the natural sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of plants or from secretions of living parts of plants or excretions of plant sucking insects on the living parts of plants, which the bees collect, transform by combining with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate, store and leave in the honey comb to ripen and mature.

2.1.1 Blossom Honey or Nectar Honey is the honey which comes from nectars of plants.

2.1.2 Honeydew Honey is the honey which comes mainly from excretions of plant sucking insects (Hemiptera) on the living parts of plants or secretions of living parts of plants.

OSU Research—Continued from page 3

with nutritional status (hypopharyngeal gland protein estimation). We will also track the survival of these sampled colonies until spring 2011. These data will provide us insights into the role of each of these factors in colony declines.

Establishing an Economic Threshold for *Nosema ceranae*

We recently received a professional + producer grant from Western SARE for developing an economic threshold for *Nosema ceranae* for the Pacific Northwest and to examine the epidemiology of *Nosema ceranae*. As a part of this project, we will also develop a reliable sampling protocol to estimate *Nosema* spore counts from infested bee colonies. Lately beekeepers have been forced to treat their colonies prophylactically with the antibiotic Fumagillin to protect their colonies from *Nosema ceranae* without information on the presence or absence of *Nosema* or its threshold. This prophylactic treatment has significantly increased colony management costs for beekeepers. Prophylactic use of Fumagillin is not only a financial burden for beekeepers; its excessive use may lead to the development of resistance, and beekeepers might lose this *Nosema* control tool from their limited arsenal. We will be conducting this project in collaboration with beekeepers.

Evaluating the Efficacy of Apiguard and Related Problems Such as Brood Mortality

Several beekeepers have concerns about the efficacy of Apiguard and also about possible mortality of brood resulting from the use of Apiguard. As the efficacy of this product is largely dependent on temperature, in this study we want to explore the efficacy, appropriate time, dose, method, and temperature for application of this product.

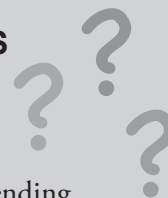
Hivastan Research

We plan to design an experiment to explore the optimum dose and time of application of Hivastan for lower bee mortality and better efficacy. The product is a mitochondrial electron transport inhibitor. Several beekeepers have concerns about the application of this relatively new product for *Varroa* control.

I strongly encourage you to provide us your feedback and suggestions regarding research projects that you feel are important for the beekeeping community in Oregon. Also, we are anticipating your enthusiastic support and participation similar to this past year with regard to all the projects that need your involvement and help. We are deeply indebted to all of you for the support and encouragement that we have received for our program at OSU.

Q and A FOR THE BEES

Jan Lohman



As beekeepers, we all have unending questions about our bees. I always seem to go right to the Questions and Answers portion of every magazine that I read. I recently asked Rosanna about adding a section in *The Bee Line* for Questions and Answers, and she agrees that it would be a fun thing to do.

Drs. Sagili and Caron have kindly accepted the challenge to answer questions from beekeepers in each issue of *The Bee Line*. We also want to call on beekeepers to join in the fun—both in asking questions and in providing answers. We are very excited about this project, but we need your participation to make it successful.

The Bee Line is your publication. I think that more involvement from the group will make it not only educational and communicative, but also more fun. Please send your questions to Rosanna at osba.newsletter@gmail.com or call her at 503.772.3486 so we can get this process started. In addition, if you have ideas about what we might name this section, please send them as well. And, if you have any pictures that you think the group will enjoy, don't be shy. Rosanna is always looking to add your input to *The Bee Line*.



BEE BEARDS BY JOHN GIBEAU

Dewey Caron

Have you ever attempted to wear a bee beard? Most people fear bees, and many beekeepers would never attempt to be this intimate with their bees. John Gibeau of Surrey, British Columbia, has perfected bee beard demonstrations. In fact, he does such demonstrations more than eighty times per year. I had the chance to see and experience his excellent “show” at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) in Portland over the Halloween weekend last fall.

John crafts bee beards on volunteer faces as an educational tool. He uses the event to help people overcome their fear of bee stings. At OMSI, over 100 people volunteered to wear a bee beard as part of the museum’s exhibit, “SCREAM: THE SCIENCE OF FEAR.” As a Bee Master, John produces an elaborate educational experience, one that was experienced intimately by the four volunteers selected to wear a bee beard at the OMSI event. They were viewed by a grand number of families attending the museum exhibit.

I describe John’s technique to establish artificial swarms to create bee beards in the June 2010 issue of the *American Bee Journal*. For the OMSI event, he used bee colonies of Glen Andresen from his home apiary in NE Portland. Glen manages about forty colonies in his and several city backyard apiaries, including one at Leach Botanical Garden in SE Portland. Glen, a beekeeper since 1990, manages his bees without chemicals, the same way he manages his organic gardens. His honey, along with his garden produce, is sold from his porch and at Leach. He teaches organic beekeeping in a Portland Metro program. The museum contacted him to supply the bees for the FEAR event because he has authored programs on organic gardening there.

John puts beards of bees on people within a special 6 x 8 hexagonal plexiglass booth [image below]. John is safety conscious. He seeks to reassure the volunteer and watches for nervousness or discomfort. He tells the volunteer to become one in soul and body with the bees as the bees do their thing and gather around the caged queen suspended from their neck. He listens for a “good” sound of buzz from the bees.

The beard took twenty minutes to develop, during which time John [left, below to the left] explained to the audience outside the plexiglass booth about bees and what was happening. Glen [below to the right] also explained his beekeeping within the city—how he manages his bees and processes and sells his honey.



The swarm demonstration of thirty minutes was extremely well done and a great educational event. We need to do more to reach out with our message about bees to the general public.

NORTHWEST CORNER THIS FALL

The fall conference will be held at the Hood River Inn in Hood River from October 28 through October 30. Presentations scheduled to date feature: HOP GUARD: An Innovative Treatment for Varroa; MICROBIAL ECOLOGY of Social Insects/Honey Bees; EFFECTS OF NUTRIENT PROCESSING on Honey Bee Nutrition and Health; and EFFECTS OF FUNGICIDES on Honey Bee Physiology and Colony Health. To register, contact: Paul Hostica, 517 S Touchet Rd, Dayton WA 99328 (phostica@gmail.com) or Herb Brasington, 1881 NE Ashberry Dr, Hillsboro OR 97124 (treasurer@orsba.org). Updates will be posted at: www.orsba.org.

2010 WESTERN APICULTURE SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The Western Apiculture Society Conference will be held August 30–September 2 at the Red Lion Hotel in Salem with an exciting lineup (below). Registration forms are available at: groups.ucanr.org/WAS (click on *Conference Information*) as well as at: www.orsba.org. A print version appears in the July 2010 issue of *The Bee Line*.

Monday Evening, August 30

- 5:30 PM Welcome Reception (cash bar)
7:00 PM Sue Cobey, UC Davis: Why We Need Better Bees

Tuesday, August 31—Oregon Day

- 8:30 AM Mike Burgett, Emeritus OSU: Those Other Asian Honey Bees
9:15 AM Mike Weber, COSI: Producing Quality Seeds Needs Quality Bees
10:00 AM Sonny Ramaswamy, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences, OSU: Welcome Address
10:45 AM Sue Cobey, UC Davis: Progress on Breeding Superior Bees
11:45 AM Mace Vaughan, Xerces Society: Conservation of Habitat for Bees

Wednesday, September 1—Urban/Backyarder Focus

- 8:30 AM-12:00 PM Larry Connor, Kalamazoo, MI: Advanced Beginner-Intermediate Short Course
1:30 PM Harry Vanderpool, Salem: Nuc Management for Year-Round Hive Management
2:15 PM Eric Mussen, UC Davis: Hints for Successful Backyard Beekeeping

- 3:45 PM Kim Flottum, *Bee Culture Magazine*: LL Langstroth—Why we still celebrate his contributions
4:15 PM Ann Harman, Flint Hill VA: Value-Added Beekeeping

- 7:30 PM Kim Flottum, *Bee Culture Magazine*: Producing Varietal and Artisan Honey

Thursday, September 2—Bees and Beekeeping Focus

- 8:30 AM Sujaya Rao, OSU: Training the Next Generation of Pollination Biologists
9:15 AM Christi Heintz, PAm: Why Almonds Rule—Beekeeper management practices
10:45 AM Gordon Wardell, Paramount Farming Company, CA: Almond Pollination
11:30 AM Diana Sammataro, USDA Tucson: Research Roundup from the Tucson USDA Lab
Mini Workshops in the Vendor Room with Larry Connor, Ann Harman, and Janet Brisson
1:30 PM Tim Lawrence, WSU: Human Dimensions of CCD and Its Impact on the Honey Bee
2:15 PM Morris Ostrofsky, Eugene: Don't B.U.G. Us
3:45 PM Ramesh Sagili, OSU: Honey Bee Research Program at Oregon State University

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USDA Provides Emergency Assistance to Producers of Honeybees, Livestock and Farm-Raised Fish for 2009 Losses

WASHINGTON, July 15, 2010 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that over \$13 million in disaster assistance will be issued starting today to livestock, honeybee and farm-raised fish producers that suffered losses in 2009 because of disease, adverse weather or other conditions. The aid will come from the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

"The Obama Administration is committed to helping producers who have suffered devastating losses due to natural disasters and this program will allow eligible producers that suffered losses in 2009 to receive emergency assistance payments that may be critical to their survival," said Vilsack.

More than \$13 million in disaster assistance, including more than \$7 million to compensate beekeepers for 2009 losses, will be issued. Under ELAP, producers will be compensated for losses that are not covered under other Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Other disaster assistance programs covered by the 2008 Farm Bill disaster assistance payment program are the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. ELAP benefits related to 2010 losses are expected to be issued in early 2011. For additional background on ELAP, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elap>.

For more information about USDA Farm Service Agency disaster assistance programs, visit a local FSA county office or <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

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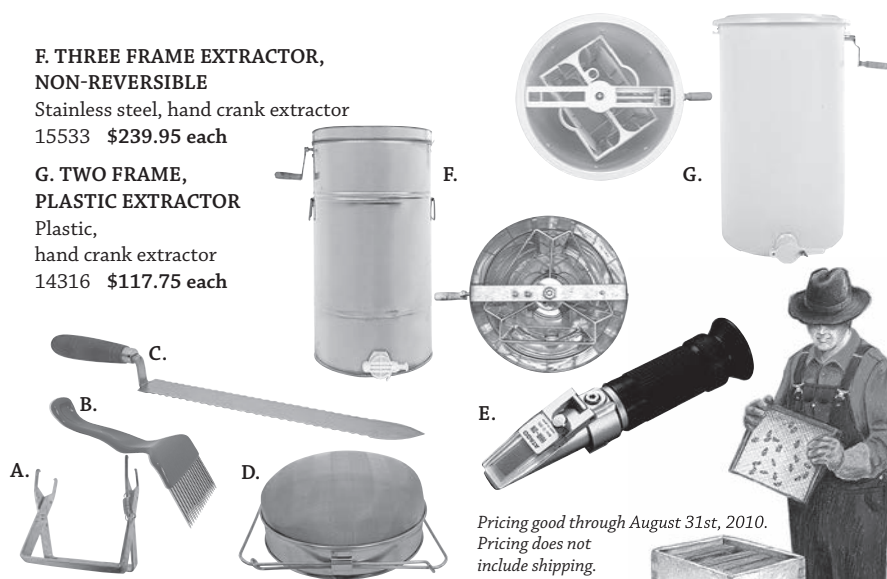
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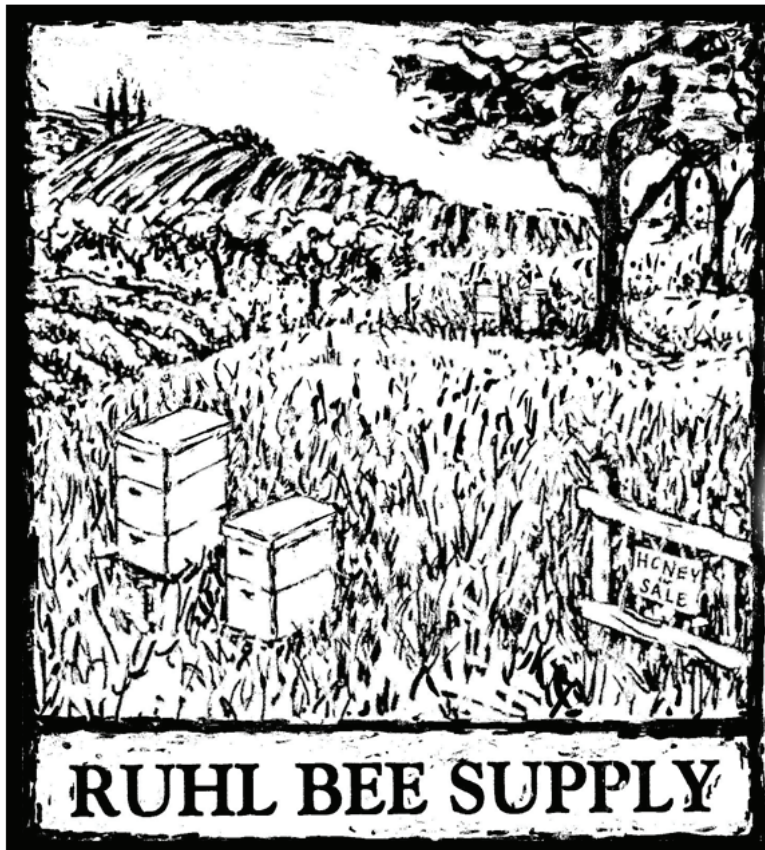


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The **Oregon State Beekeepers Association** is a nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping.

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