

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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July 2011



Rosanna Mattingly

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Upcoming Area Conferences

October 20–23: **British Columbia** Honey Producers, Richmond BC
October 27–29: **Washington** State Beekeepers Association, Federal Way
November 15–17: **California** State Beekeepers Association, Santa Rosa
November 17–19: **Oregon** State Beekeepers Association, Seaside
December 1–3: **Idaho** State Beekeepers Association, Boise

THE QUEEN IS IN THE MAIL?

Note: Even though we have no postal strike here as in Canada, queens are in relatively short supply. Jan Lohman recently asked about the shortages. Frank Pendell of Pendell Apiaries and Gus Rouse of Kona Queen Hawaii have responded and provide insight, Pendell going for the major reason and Rouse adding reasons that, though often involving special circumstances, are nonetheless cumulative in their impact. More on this in the August issue of the newsletter.

Frank Pendell: The most likely reason queens are in short supply is that the useful life (or *productive* life) of the queen is shorter than in the past. This results in beekeepers buying more queens for their respective number of hives than in the past. The production of queens has increased, but not enough to offset the increased demand.

Gus Rouse: In my opinion, there are several factors at play on the queen market this year. Many have been increasing in the past few years, and some are new developments. The main one is that it takes more queens to maintain an operation now than it did ten years ago. With all the bee moving, miticides, and pesticides, the lifespan of a queen has shortened. One thousand hive operations used to buy 500–600 queens per year; now they buy 1,100. The demand is up. In addition, the US closure to Australian queens and packages due to *Apis cerana* has surely had an impact. Possibly as many as 100,000 queens entered the country as queens or in packages. I am not certain on this number, but I think I am close.

Queen breeder problems have played a part in all parts of the United States. Queen breeders have been touched by the same problems of pollinators, such as colony collapse and poor performance of colonies. With the drought, mites, Nosema, and beetles, our production for 2010 was off by about ten percent. Fortunately, the drought is gone. Still, many queen breeders have cut back because of difficulties in production. In addition, many queen-breeding operations are not being picked up by the next generation.

Many of the queen-rearing areas of the country also have been hit by the Small Hive Beetle, which can be particularly hard on mating nucs. I was glad to see that the SHB did not damage as many of ours as anticipated, but it did not make things any easier. The rocky terrain has helped us.

Here at Kona Queen Hawaii, we started late after going through the worst drought in recorded history. The drought is gone and things are going well, but we will not get the production back on approximately 15,000 queens. A long, cold winter has affected most mainland operations this year. Most queen breeders got a late start. Hopefully, conditions will be good to run late.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here it is mid June and still no warm, sunny days. What's up with this! In the spring, you can expect the unexpected, but we are moving into summer with not much relief in sight. The bees are trying to get out whenever possible, but 2011 will be remembered as the year that was. Here is hoping that a weather change is coming soon.

I am fascinated by the collaborative efforts of the group that has put together the Bee Informed Partnership of which our own Dr. Dewey Caron and George Hansen are included. They are working to combine our many technical computer availabilities with our beekeeping statistics to come up with thorough information about honey bees, and I applaud them for their efforts.

I joined their survey and found it to be easy to maneuver and not too time consuming. Their findings are that thirty percent of managed honey bee colonies in the United States were lost during the 2010/2011 winter and that the percentage of losses has remained steady during the past five years. The survey includes 5,572 US beekeepers, which represents twenty percent of US beekeepers and fifteen percent of the total managed colonies in the United States. This is a time when more people than ever are looking at honey bees as a viable hobby, and enthusiasm for honey bees and their health is at an all-time high. At the same time, it is more and more difficult to keep these wonderful insects alive.

As a sideline to this information, the Master Beekeeper program is moving forward for Oregon. We have had a training session for the instructors and have assimilated their input. We now look forward to a field day for mentors on August 6 to get the mentors up to speed on the program. If you have an interest in mentoring a learning beekeeper or someone working toward their Master Beekeeper Apprenticeship, please contact Carolyn Breece so that we can include you in this event [see materials, pages 10–11].

I have talked with Liz Corbett at NOD Apiaries about the use of the Mite-Away Quick Strips™. We at Vazza Farms have used them on part of our outfit, but unusual weather conditions have made it difficult to understand whether the Quick Strips might have caused a problem or if it could be weather related. Our early trials were very successful, but later use has been more problematic (which, again, might be weather related). If you have used the Quick Strips and want to give me feedback to report to NOD, please email me at vazzafarms@yahoo.com with your information.

As always I enjoy hearing from you and look forward to your responses.

Jan

2011 FALL CONFERENCE

Paul Andersen

The 2011 Fall Conference is rapidly approaching, and it is not too early to start your planning. The dates this year are November 17, 18, and 19, which are the Thursday–Saturday before Thanksgiving. The conference again will be at the Seaside Convention Center in Seaside, Oregon.

It is looking like a very exciting conference, with activities and a broad set of presentations for everyone involved in beekeeping.

Oregon State University is going to set up a Bee Lab with the equipment needed to demonstrate for us the procedures for analyzing the samples they collect. In addition, we will be able to bring our own samples into the lab and a researcher will show us how to analyze them as well as provide us with the results. The Bee Lab will be running parallel to the conference presentations on Friday and Saturday.

Some of the presenters we have commitments from are Dewey Caron, Sue Cobey, Debbie Delaney, Randy Oliver, and Ramesh Sagili. Tom Rinderer, Diana Sammataro, and Steve Pernal are additional speakers

who have indicated they will participate subject to approval by their management.

On Friday, Thom Trusewicz will be offering his Bee School. Then on Saturday, we will be offering an alternative tract for those interested in natural methods of beekeeping, such as alternative equipment including Warre and other top bar hives, chemical-less beekeeping, and apitherapy.

The hotels we are working with are the Best Western Ocean View Resort at 503.738.3334 (414 North Prom, Seaside OR 97138) and the Inn at Seaside at 503.738.9581 (441 2nd Avenue, Seaside OR 97138). Both hotels have agreed to give us the same rates as they offered in 2009.

Looking forward to seeing all of you there!!

IT'S OFFICIAL: Bees Make Honey in Oregon!

76th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
2011 Regular Session

- Jan 11, 2011: First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.
- Jan 21, 2011: Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- Feb 4, 2011: Public Hearing held.
- Feb 9, 2011: Work Session held.
- Feb 11, 2011: Recommendation: Do pass.
- Feb 14, 2011: Second reading.
- Feb 16, 2011: Rules suspended. Carried over to February 21, 2011 Calendar.
- Feb 21, 2011: Third reading. Carried by Clem. Passed.
- Feb 22, 2011: First reading. Referred to President's desk.
- Mar 1, 2011: Referred to Environment and Natural Resources.
- May 3, 2011: Public Hearing and Work Session held.
- May 5, 2011: Recommendation: Do pass.
- May 5, 2011: Second reading.
- May 9, 2011: Third reading. Carried by Hass. Passed.
- May 12, 2011: Co-Speakers signed.
- May 16, 2011: President signed.
- May 19, 2011: Governor signed.**
- May 19, 2011: Chapter 124, (2011 Laws): Effective date **January 1, 2012.**

Enrolled

House Bill 2947

AN ACT

Relating to honey.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2011 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 616.

SECTION 2. The State Department of Agriculture shall adopt rules under ORS 616.205 to 616.385 establishing standards of identity and quality and labeling requirements for honey sold in this state. In establishing or amending standards and requirements under this section, in addition to the definitions and standards described under ORS 616.230 and 616.325, the department shall give consideration to any definitions and standards used by a federal agency, another state or an organization administering a regional, multiregional, national or international agreement on honey.

Thanks to everyone who made this happen!

A REMEMBRANCE

Ernest N. McCormick

September 7, 1921–May 19, 2011

Peter Forrest

I had a planned trip to California the week Ernie passed away and only made it back for the service at Willamette National Cemetery. I had seen him each day in his last week. I saw him the night before I left and was hoping for him and his family that it would not be long. It was too painful.

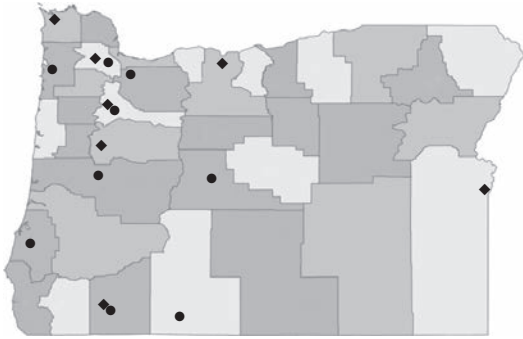
He passed away my first morning in California. As I hiked around the canyons of Orange County, the hills were alive with the flurry of bees busy on wildflower and cactus. As I said to his daughters, I have a very special memory in that every time I see a honey bee, I will think of Ernie.

Last fall we extracted honey for the last time together. His sight, mobility, and health were in decline more so than in past years. He was a very special friend and I have fond memories of our time together.

Note: Ernie was for many years a member of both the Portland Metro Beekeepers Association and the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. He was open, kind, and eager to share his enthusiasm for bees with people of all ages. Peter Forrest wrote about learning bees with Ernie in the November/December 2006 issue of *The Bee Line*, which is posted at www.orsba.org.

Ernie is survived by his daughters, Rosalind, Mary, and Melba; sons, Jim and Bernie; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association EXECUTIVE BOARD AND RESOURCES



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Eastern Oregon: Jordan Dimock
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541.372.2726

Portland Metro: Bev Koch
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503.655.7447; johnbev@aracnet.com

• OSBA REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Central Oregon Beekeepers
Meets 6:30 PM, third Tuesday
63211 Service Rd, Suite 130, Bend
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

Klamath Basin Beekeepers
Meets 9:00 AM, last Saturday (except Nov/Dec)
OSU Extension, 3328 Vandenberg Rd, Klamath Falls
President: Tom Chester; 541.850.8384
klamathbeekeepers@gmail.com
Vice President: Jim Smith; 541.892.5888
Secretary: Donna Schmerbach; 541.891.3066
Treasurer: Ed Geise; 541.892.6016

Lane County Beekeepers
Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, Trinity United
Methodist Church, 440 Maxwell Rd, Eugene
President: Judy Scher; 541.344.2114
judy_scher@catdreams.com
Vice President: Rita Ostrofsky; 541.685.2875
Secretary: Barbara Bajec; 541.767.9086
Treasurer: Nancy Ograin; 541.935.7065
woodrt@pacinfo.com
Website: www.lcbaor.org

Portland Metro Beekeepers
Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Clackamas Comm
College, Clairmont Hall, Room 118, Oregon City
President: Nancy McFarlane; 503.260.3930
nancymariemcfarlane@yahoo.com
Vice President: John Keeley; 503.632.3682
keeley81@bctonline.com

Secretary: Bernard Newland; 503.656.6621
berternew@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Rex McIntire; 503.720.7958
remcintire_5@msn.com

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, first Monday, Southern Oregon
Res & Ext Ctr, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point

President: John Jacob; 541.582.BEES
john@oldsolenterprises.com

Vice President: Floyd Pawlowski
415 Pompadour Dr, Ashland; 541.482.4797

Secretary: Michele Bashaw; hapistitch@earthlink.net
Treasurer: Ron Padgett; Padgett25@frontiernet.net

Tillamook County Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Tuesday, Art Space
Hwy 101 & 5th St, Bay City

President: Bob Allen; 503.322.3819

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, last Wednesday
OSU Ext, #1400, 18640 SW Walker Rd, Beaverton

President: Kevin Beckman; 503.539.5996
kevin_beckman2@msn.com

Vice President: Herb Brasington; 503.701.4180
herb@hwbsystems.com

Secretary-Treasurer: Jerry Maasdam
503.648.7906; jmaasdam@mac.com

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Chemeketa
Community College, Building 34, Room A, Salem

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; pkswenson@gmail.com

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Fairs and Exhibits: Marjie Ehry; 503.434.1894

NW Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education: Kenny Williams; 541.456.2631

Nominations: Chuck Sowers; 503.266.1740

Public Relations: Paul Andersen; 503.332.5410

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Dr. Lynn Royce
541.929.5337; mitebee@peak.org

Dr. Ramesh Sagili
541.737.5460; sagilir@hort.oregonstate.edu

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

Portland Metro

Honey bee inquiries haven't been too numerous, though with every burst of sunlight the potential for swarm calls goes up. Have been asked a few times where one could still get a colony of bees at this late date. And a couple of folks are looking for "organic" wax to use in making salve, skin creams, and other things. Other than that, colonies are being taken care of at Zenger Farm.

—Bev Koch

South Willamette Valley

Well, the rain has finally stopped after what looked as if the end would never come. Here in the south valley, commercial keepers are moving in and out of crops and honey locations—trying to make some money, only to give it all to the gas companies. The hobbyist can hopefully just kick back and watch the honey flow in. Remember, now is the time to check Qs and put on extra boxes. I have a feeling the honey flow will be fast and furious, so don't be left out of the fun. Good luck and remember to reQ all those swarms you caught.

—Jason Rowan

Regional Associations

Lane County Beekeepers

On May 14, LCBA hosted a booth at the Wings and Wine Festival at Domain Meriwether Winery in Veneta, Oregon. Despite the cloudy, cool weather, we sold honey and talked bees to many interested folks, two of whom were enthusiastic future beekeepers under the age of 10. At the May meeting, Morris Ostrofsky gave an excellent presentation on honey bee diseases and pests to over eighty members.

June is very busy for Lane County beekeepers! We will have our annual field day on Saturday, June 18, at Dr. Lynn Royce's farm. We expect to be joined by several members of the new Linn-Benton Beekeepers Association. Hive demonstrations will be done by Ken Ograin, Kenny Williams, Heike Williams, and Morris Ostrofsky. Our next club meeting will be on June 21. Morris will give a brand new talk on reading frames. We will host a booth at the KLCC Garden Tour on Sunday, June 26. During July and August, several LCBA members will be learning to raise queens by

The Bee Line

grafting larvae. Dr. Lynn Royce will be teaching this as a pilot class.



Secretary of the Lane County Beekeepers Association, Barbara Bajec, talks bees and shares honey at the group's booth during a recent Wings and Wine Festival in Veneta.

I have just become a journeyman beekeeper in the Washington State Beekeepers Association Master Beekeepers Program and have begun the daunting master program, which I figure will take three years to complete. Hopefully, by that time, Oregon will have their Master Beekeeper program in place and I can start all over again!

—Judy Scher

Portland Metro Beekeepers

During our June meeting, President Nancy McFarlane announced that, instead of a regular meeting in August, we will have our annual potluck picnic at Molalla State Park from 11 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, August 13. Everyone is invited. She then led a discussion of what our senior beekeepers are doing in May/June. Helga Moll suggested putting supers on, even if early, to prevent swarms by giving lots of room. Jim Barlean noted that a completely empty (no foundation) small frame, if put between two filled-out frames, will be filled out nicely by the bees. No foundation necessary.

Dr. Dewey Caron then presented a lecture with a Power Point on Requeening. This is a chance to “improve on Mother Nature.” We can increase our colony numbers by capturing swarms or dividing a hive. Each method could benefit from a new queen.

If a colony overwinters well, it is an opportunity to divide it. This new colony will need a new queen. In addition, we may want to requeen to increase the qualities we want in our colony such as gentleness or hygienic behavior. Lastly, as the queen gets over a year old, she may wear out, losing her abilities to create good new worker bees. Dr. Caron then explained a variety of ways to requeen. These go from simple (let the colony create its own) to highly complex, which are

“not for the faint of heart.” A complex method could involve grafting your own queen from a worker larva, though he recommended taking a class if wanting to use this method. In addition to several methods to requeen, he talked about the use of swarms, different forms and uses of nucs, and how to set them up for the best chance of success.

Dr. Caron also had books available that he has authored. One that seemed to be in high demand was *A Field Guide to Honey Bees*. This has excellent pictures of normal bee development plus extensive descriptions of common maladies affecting bees. It is in a small handbook size that one can easily take into the field. In addition, just out is the newest edition of the *Beekeepers Handbook*. This is an A to Z beekeepers guide. Next month's talk will be *Extracting Honey* by Peter Morrison.

—Paul Jarrett

Tillamook County Beekeepers

The June meeting of Tillamook-area beekeepers had twelve members in attendance. After introductions, a question-and-answer period took place. Topics of concern were queenright colonies and swarm prevention. Many of our new members have successfully caught swarms this spring.

Kevin Carle, our guest speaker, runs a business that supplies laboratories with yellowjackets and baldface hornets. The venom is used to produce a serum vaccine. Carle encounters honey bees, and club members help rescue these bees. Toward the end the meeting, we shared a batch of mint-walnut-fudge brownies.

—Terry Fullan

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association

Ken Williams, past president of Oregon State Beekeepers Association and owner of Wild Harvest Honey near Blodgett, Oregon, talked about Evaluating Queens at the regular meeting of the TVBA on May 25. The annual summer potluck and barbecue will be held at River Oak Farm on July 23. We will demonstrate honey extraction, peek into several hives to look for diseases, and answer questions. These activities will be mostly directed at brand new beekeepers. We have had over seventy-five people take our beekeeping classes that have been held in March for the years, 2009–2011.

—Jerry Maasdam

KEEPING BEES IN JULY

Todd Balsiger

Unless you are near a commercial crop or at higher elevations, the summer nectar dearth begins about mid July (probably later this year given our unprecedented precipitation and cold temperatures). At this time, we need to begin thinking about nest consolidation and honey harvest.

❖ In late summer, we crowd the bees. We begin this in earnest in August along with mite treatments, but for now don't leave extra supers on colonies that are light on stores. Even for heavy hives, extra supers now can lead to partially filled frames as the nectar flow tapers off. These partially filled frames are a nuisance to extract.

❖ As usual, keep an eye out for colony health. Any colony not keeping up with its peers needs to be inspected to make sure it is queenright and healthy.

❖ Many beekeepers start nucs about mid July for overwintering or fall requeening. Often these nucs are used to requeen queenless colonies discovered when taking honey off. Start them off small: one frame brood and bees, one frame feed, maybe another empty, drawn frame, then the balance in foundation. It may be necessary to shake a few more bees in from other frames to get the right proportion of adults. Always move the nucs to a different yard, a distance away from the donor colonies.

❖ Requeen any colony with undesirable characteristics, such as poor production, European (not American) foulbrood, poor brood pattern, mean temper, and such.

❖ Queenless colonies are a real problem (and I expect more so this year) and need to be either requeened with a nuc or retired. Typically, queenless colonies have

an abundance of pollen stored in multiple frames as they have no brood to feed. This condition generally is followed by the development of laying workers. Signs of laying workers are multiple eggs per cell, eggs on the side of cells (opposed to one egg centered on the bottom), and drone brood development in worker cells. If requeening, always place the nuc in the top brood box and to one side where it is easier to defend. You may want to reverse brood boxes first as there may be fewer bees in the lower box (again, easier to defend). If you retire the colony, shake the bees out and share the frames with other colonies. The workers will perceive the eggs as foreign and unwanted, and will eat them. After the drones hatch from the elongated worker cells, the workers will cut the cells back to their regular length.

❖ Keep on the lookout for American foulbrood as robbing season is imminent and AFB-infected colonies are easy targets. American foulbrood is highly infectious and early detection is important in its control.

❖ Remove and extract supers. Honey removed in late July will have less moisture content than honey in June, so you do not have to be as judicious in making sure that all cells are capped. Moreover, the nectar flow can end in late season, and the bees will be unable to cap the honey cells even though they are sufficiently dehydrated.

❖ Get ready for next month's all-important tasks: mite and foulbrood treatment, removal of all supers, and configuring hives for winter.

From: *The Bee Line*, July 2010. Although Todd wrote this for last year's season, unfortunately the "unprecedented precipitation and cold temperatures" he speaks of are all too fitting for 2011.



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QUESTION OF THE MONTH ? ?

Question ?

When a hive dies out doing the early winter for reasons other than starvation, there can be a lot of pollen and honey left in it. With the damp weather of the Willamette Valley the pollen and the dead bees will start to mold quickly. So the question is, how can you salvage this comb with the patches of mold on it? The patches may be just on the pollen or it could cover areas over twenty-five percent of the total comb on one side. The areas of honey on the comb are generally clear of mold.

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Responses

Dewey Caron: The mold buildup can be extensive when colonies die out and there is no population to protect the comb. The best option to handle this situation is to store the frames in a freezer until ready to be used on packages or divides in the spring. Lacking freezer space (or late discovery of the molded frames) try brushing off mold growth with a stiff brush (avoiding as much damage to the cells as possible) before reuse, and I recommend placement of only one or a couple of such frames per hive. Washing with a mild Clorox solution is an alternative means to remove mold before reuse of frames.

Ramesh Sagili: As soon as you discover these moldy combs, the first thing that you can do is to take those frames to a dry and warm place and allow them to dry for few days. As they dry, the growth of mold will be contained and then you can store these combs in an empty super. You can put few frames into each of the stronger hives in spring, and the bees will clean them nicely and utilize without any problems. Another option would be to store these moldy frames in a freezer if you have enough space and then put them on stronger colonies during spring.

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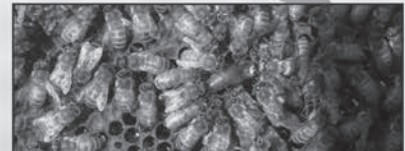
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PENN STATE LEADS IN HONEY BEE HEALTH INITIATIVE

Public release date: 17 May 2011

Contact: Andrea Elyse Messer
aem1@psu.edu; 814.865.9481



A nationwide network to monitor and maintain honeybee health is the aim of the Bee Informed Partnership, a five-year, \$5 million program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and led by Penn State.

The Bee Informed Partnership will use an epidemiological approach to identify bee common management practices and use them to develop best practices on a regional and operationally appropriate level. The Partnership will include many institutions already involved in pollinator work, but will also strive to include citizens involved in bee keeping or other aspects of the problem for data collection and integration.

"We would like to reduce honey bee mortality, increase beekeeper profitability and enhance adoption of sustainable management systems in beekeeping," said Dennis vanEngelsdorp, senior extension associate, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, who will lead the project. "At the same time we want to increase the reliability of production in pollinator dependent crops and increase the profitability of pollinator-dependent producers."

Project partners will create and maintain a dynamic Honey Bee Health database with an interactive web-based interface. Penn State and partners will also survey colony mortality, pathogens and parasites, as well as beekeeping management strategies, costs and outputs. They will create a pollinator quality and availability reporting system and an emerging-issues alert system.

Some of the surveys planned by the Partnership include the continuation of the colony winter loss survey, an annual survey of management practices and a survey of pollinator availability. Other surveys will focus on determining colony mortality, parasite loads and socioeconomic factors.

"By surveying beekeepers about their management practices as well as their colonies' overwintering success, we can use epidemiological methods to tell beekeepers which practices work and which do not."

The multistate team hopes that their work and especially their educational efforts to introduce the

best management practices will reduce national losses in honeybee populations by 50 percent in the next five years, according to vanEngelsdorp.

Co-investigators on the project are the University of California—California Cooperative Extension, University of Illinois, University of Georgia, University of Tennessee, University of Minnesota, North Carolina State University, Appalachian State University, Lincoln University, USDA-ARS, and the Florida Department of Agriculture. Other collaborators include NASA and USDA-Animal and Plant Health Service. For more information, visit: www.beinformed.org.

UPDATE ON THE HEALTH INITIATIVE

Dewey Caron

The Honey Bee Health Initiative is led by Dennis vanEngelsdorp, formerly of Penn State but soon to be a Research Scientist at the University of Maryland. He was one of the distinguished group to interview for the honey bee position at Oregon State University. Project partners will create and maintain a dynamic Honey Bee Health database (www.beinformed.org) with an interactive web-based interface. Penn State and partners also will continue national and regional surveys of colony winter loss mortality, including the NW survey of Dewey Caron and Ramesh Sagili, an annual survey of management practices, and a survey of pollinator availability based on recent survey efforts of Mike Burgett for West Coast pollinators and Dewey Caron for East Coast pollinators (2010 surveys published in the January and February USDA *National Honey Report*, respectively), along with other surveys.

Dewey Caron will chair a Bee Informed Partnership Science Advisory Board composed of internationally recognized scientists in the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Switzerland, and Belgium. This board, along with a Stakeholder Advisory Board that includes Oregon's George Hansen, will help develop the procedures that will assist the Bee Informed Partnership. These procedures will seek to continue to protect the confidentiality of survey participants, but also follow Partnership commitment to transparency and open access to the collected data.

All Oregon beekeepers are invited to go to www.beinformed.org to get signed up to participate and view the active participants and board memberships.

OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM INTEREST APPLICATION

The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program needs experienced Field Mentors and Classroom Instructors. Please complete this Interest Application and return it as per the instructions below.

I would like (please check all that apply):

- To enroll in the Apprentice-level program (first certification)
- To offer my time as a Classroom Instructor
- To offer my time as a Field Mentor
- To have my name removed from the Interest list

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

email: _____

Number of years as a beekeeper: _____

Number of hives: _____

Are you an OSBA member? Yes _____ No _____

Are you a member of a bee club? Yes _____ No _____ Name of club: _____

Do you use a log or other method to track your hive management activity? Yes _____ No _____

Do you currently mentor new beekeepers? Yes _____ No _____

I will attend the Field Mentor meeting on Saturday, August 6, 2011: Yes _____ No _____

I am unable to attend the August 6 meeting, but would like to mentor program participants:
Yes _____ No _____

For Classroom Instructors, briefly describe your experience giving presentations or talking formally about bees/beekeeping:

Additional comments:

Return this form as an email attachment to Carolyn Breece at breecec@hort.oregonstate.edu or as a hardcopy to Carolyn's attention at: Honey Bee Lab, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University, 4017 ALS Building, Corvallis OR 97331

MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM MENTORS

If you enjoy helping new beekeepers get started, showing them how it is done, answering their many questions, and sharing your enthusiasm about bees and beekeeping, you are a mentor. Oregon's new Master Beekeeper program wants you! Field Mentors play an integral role in the program. We need many qualified mentors to help launch the Apprentice-level portion soon.

One of the requirements to be certified as an Apprentice-level beekeeper is to work with a Field Mentor and demonstrate hands-on proficiency of basic hive management techniques, such as knowing smoker operation and use; recognizing drones, workers, and the queen; and doing basic hive evaluations (e.g., strength, brood pattern, stores of feed). A Field Experience Worksheet documents the required activities, and the Field Mentor signs off that the student has demonstrated competency with each.

As you can see, Field Mentors provide the participant with "real life" experience, often making the critical difference in the success of new beekeeper. We encourage you to join in this effort and mentor program participants.

Looking at the Apprentice-level certification requirements gives you some insight into what we are looking for in a Field Mentor. To become certified as an Apprentice, the participant will:

- Successfully complete a written exam with a passing score
- Submit a log/journal with twelve months of entries describing his/her hive maintenance activities
- Submit a minimum of four Field Experience Worksheets (one per season)
- Provide documentation of six earned education points

As a Field Mentor, you provide participants with the knowledge, confidence, and hands-on field experience to meet these requirements. The overall objective is that you will model what should be done and practice what you are teaching. We are asking that you:

- Have a minimum of three years current beekeeping experience
- Be willing to provide the minimum four hands-on field experiences for those you mentor
- Become familiar with the classroom training text *First Lessons in Beekeeping*
- Keep a hive maintenance log or provide an example and describe its benefits

A one-day Field Mentor workshop is scheduled from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis on August 6, 2011. During the day, you will be introduced to the Master Beekeeper program and work with the Field Experience Worksheets using OSU's hives. The Field Mentors workshop along with the previously held Classroom Instructors conference are some of many activities leading up to the Oregon Master Beekeeper program's debut at the OSBA conference in November. If you know other beekeepers who mentor, please share this information with them.

Please take a minute to answer the questions on the Interest Application form [page 10]. Return it either as an email attachment to Carolyn Breece at breecec@hort.oregonstate.edu or a hardcopy addressed to my attention at the address below.

We appreciate your interest, enthusiasm, and support of Oregon's Master Beekeeper program as we move toward its implementation.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by mail, email, or phone.

Carolyn

Honey Bee Lab, Department of Horticulture
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OSBA on Facebook

Thom Trusewicz recently set up a Facebook account for the Oregon State Beekeepers Association, something he says he has been wanting to do for some time now. He writes: "If you are on Facebook and want to 'Friend' the OSBA, simply look up Oregon State Beekeepers and send a friend request. After all, we are all friends, aren't we?!"

Baked Sweet Potatoes with Ginger & Honey



3 pounds sweet potatoes
1/2 cup of honey
3 tablespoons. grated ginger
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

Peel and cube the sweet potatoes. Preheat oven to 400°F. Toss together the sweet potatoes, honey, ginger, olive oil, cardamom, and pepper. Transfer to a large cast iron frying pan. Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven. Stir the potatoes to expose the pieces from the bottom of the pan. Bake for another 20 minutes. Continue stirring occasionally until the sweet potatoes are tender and caramelized on the outside.

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- ❖ Mail to: Oregon State University Foundation at 850 SW 35th St, Corvallis OR 97333-4015

If you have any questions regarding details of the fund or how to donate, please contact Kenny Williams, Chair of the OSBA's Endowment Fund, at 541.456.2631.

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




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Scientists recently wrote that statements regarding "introduced species" as having only deleterious impacts are misguided and "human-induced impacts...are making the native-versus-alien species dichotomy in conservation increasingly meaningless."



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Oregon State Beekeepers Association Membership and Renewal Form

The **Oregon State Beekeepers Association** is a nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. Membership includes the ongoing work of the organization on behalf of the honey bee and beekeeping, a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on publications, and an annual subscription to *The Bee Line*. For new memberships and renewals, send check made payable to OSBA with this completed form to: **Paul Kowash, 5959 SW Taylors Ferry Rd, Portland OR 97219**

Name: _____ **New** ___ **Renewing** ___

Additional name(s) for added memberships at the same address:

Mailing address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone number: _____ **e-mail address:** _____

Contact information: The OSBA respects the privacy of members. Please check if you do not want your contact information included in a membership directory sent to OSBA members only: **Do not include contact information** _____

Please also check if you want to share only a portion of your contact information:

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Note: For new memberships and to renew, see form on page 15.

National Honey Bee Day is August 20, 2011. Start planning now to celebrate!
For information, visit: www.nationalhoneybeeday.com

The Bee Line

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

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as your corrections, comments, questions, photographs and stories (both from “old” times and “new”), interviews, recipes, and points of view to: Rosanna Mattingly, *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; email: osba.newsletter@gmail.com.

The next issue to be printed will be the August 2011 issue. The deadline for submitting copy is July 10. *Thank you!*

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