

The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 36, Number 8

October 2011



Dewey Caron

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Image above: American Honey Queen Teresa Bryson demonstrates cooking with honey at the Oregon State Fair, described in the front story. Meanwhile, planning for the 2011 OSBA Fall Conference, which will be held in Seaside this November, is in high gear (see page 3).

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OREGON STATE FAIR: WRAP UP

Dewey M. Caron

After a one-year hiatus, Oregon beekeepers were back with an attractive bee exhibit at the Oregon State Fair, which ended Labor Day. Marge Ehry organized beekeeping volunteers into four-hour shifts to answer questions. Base exhibits were provided by Fritz Skirvin, and the attractive bee prints of Kathy Garvey (UC Davis) were provided by Craig Nunn. The display, of course, included live bees. Richard Farrier donated his Ulster Observation Hive for the first days, and Gordon Kroemer brought his observation hive for the last few days. American Honey Queen Teresa Bryson was on hand to pass out recipes and free samples. It was a great show.

The fair drew only a couple of honey exhibitors, as interest is declining here and elsewhere in showing traditional agricultural products. The fair is interested in attracting more show entries, and all Oregon beekeepers are encouraged to plan to show next year. A new category, *Photographs*, got the most entries. One unique entry was a “super” of honey for which bees built and filled comb in a fish bowl.

American Honey Queen Teresa Bryson, 19-year-old daughter of Tom and Linda Bryson of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, was a big hit. Her appearance was arranged by Marge, who was the last Chair for the Oregon Honey Queen Program (she helped shepherd two Oregon national honey queens, Karen Peterson in 1969 and Lesli Kuenzi in 1987). Teresa was hosted by Chuck and Jeanne Sowers and Phyllis Shoemake for her first visit to Oregon, though she was at the Clark County (Washington) Fair in August. The Sowers also made sure that Teresa got to the Oregon Coast during her visit for a little down time. Jeanne serves on the American Beekeeping Federation national queen selection program.

Teresa attends Hagerstown (Maryland) Community College, double majoring in English and Forensic Science, but is on leave this fall due to her busy Honey Queen schedule. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has been on the Dean's List during the last two years. A 4-H member for ten years, she serves as a leader for two clubs. At the fair, in addition to handing out recipes and samples of honey and honey butter at the Oregon booth, she gave daily demonstrations on the Demonstration Stage in the Jackman Long Building.

Teresa provided answers to the most popular fair questions. She has been keeping bees for three years and manages five hives in her family's apiary. One group of volunteers she really enjoyed interacting with during the fair was the Cox family of Newberg—Krissie and Kevin guide twelve 4-Hers, including son Cody and daughter Kayla, in doing bee projects. They helped answer questions in the Oregon bee booth alongside Teresa. Their 4-H club

Continued on page 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For most beekeepers, it is coming to the close of another bee season. Here in Eastern Oregon, we have one more “kick” before we start celebrating the end of our season—*buckwheat! YUM!* We are hoping for great weather to keep things rolling now that the bees are all placed and we are awaiting the darkest honey imaginable. This has been a long hard year for us, and I think for many other beekeepers as well. We are all looking forward to some slower days and cooler nights.

While I’m on the subject of slower days, please keep in mind the upcoming Oregon State Beekeepers Association Fall Conference in Seaside, Oregon, November 17–19. Paul Andersen is building a great program with lots of diversity and plenty of information to be shared. It helps us so much if you preregister so that we can know what our attendance looks like before we get to Seaside. We have a great lineup of speakers, as you will see from Paul’s 2011 Conference article [page 3], and lots of new and exciting things planned to keep us up to speed on beekeeping in the Pacific Northwest.

A reminder, too, to get your honey samples back to the OSU Honey Bee Lab if you have not already done so. You can check results for your 2011 Report Card on their website at: <http://honeybeelab.oregonstate.edu>. Also, on the subject of the lab, as you all know, funding for the Honey Bee Lab at Oregon State University is limited. Please jump on board and make a donation to Dr. Sagili’s research through the Agricultural Research Foundation in the name of Dr. Ramesh Sagili. The money all goes to him, and we want to see things keep moving forward at the lab.

I have been receiving more Mite-Away Quick Strip user information from Pacific Northwest beekeepers, with very similar results in queen loss as earlier reported. If you decide to use this product, please be aware of that possibility and check back on your queens quickly so that you do not experience colony losses. Also, if you have testing information concerning this product that you would like to share, positive or negative, I look forward to receiving your information.

Don’t forget to slow down and enjoy the view!

Jan

State Fair—Continued from page 1

(Bacon Bits & Friends) had an additional display on bees in the 4-H building.

Also at the fair was the Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab with an observation hive and drones for people to “pet.” Carolyn Breece and the lab’s summer workers answered questions and dispensed honey straws. The 3,000 honey straws were a generous donation from Glenn Peters of Nature’s Kick Honeystix. There were a popular hit.

A selection of photos of volunteers in action at the Oregon State Fair and Honey Queen Teresa Bryson are posted on the OSBA website [www.orsba.org] along with a list of the hardworking bee volunteers. Thanks to all, especially to Marge Ehry and Honey Queen Teresa Bryson, for their dedicated work to ensure a successful 2011 State Fair Bee Booth.



A THANK YOU

Thank you to the Portland Area Beekeepers Association, the Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association, and Harry Vanderpool for generous donations to the Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab. We are so grateful for your support! Oregon State Beekeepers Association will provide a match of up to \$500 for each of the qualifying donations.

Thank you to the donors and to OSBA!

—The OSU Honey Bee Lab:

Ramesh Sagili, Carolyn Breece,

Alexis Delong, Ashrafun Nessa,

Marcus Annis, Matt Stratton,

Emily McSwane-Mock, and

Kate Taormina

2011 FALL CONFERENCE

Paul Andersen

With summer behind us and fall upon us, the bees are getting ready for winter and we need to start getting ready for the 2011 Fall Conference! This year we are holding the conference at the Seaside Convention Center in Seaside, Oregon, on November 17, 18, and 19. This has been an attractive venue for several reasons, and it is a beautiful location the family can enjoy.

A few people have asked me why they should attend and why we put on a yearly conference. First, we are organized to improve beekeeping in Oregon through education and local research. The conference provides Oregon beekeepers the opportunity to keep current with industry and scientific trends. The presentations by leaders in academic and industry research enrich our knowledge of beekeeping and the issues we have to deal with to keep our bees healthy and productive. The conference is also our leading fundraising activity for supporting the local research that all Northwest beekeepers benefit from. Oregon State Beekeepers Association and its members regularly donate to research at Oregon State University and Washington State University research labs. It is also the best opportunity to network with other beekeepers; whether a full-time commercial, sideliner, or backyard beekeeper, this is the chance to talk with other beekeepers, share experiences, and discuss issues.

There will be a few things added this year to make the conference more attractive to a wider range of beekeepers. We will also be introducing the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program.

We will still have the traditional type of presentations in the main hall on Friday and Saturday covering

subjects such as bee nutrition, pests, treatments, queens, chemical hazards, chemical handling safety, pollination, and business operations. We will also have the Bee School led by Thom Trusewicz, which has been offered in the past.

So, what is new this year?

The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program will be introduced and opened for enrollment. The program is the result of a year-plus effort by a team of OSBA members and will offer comprehensive and rigorous training for beekeepers to progress from an Apprentice level through Journey to a Master level of knowledge and experience.

Thursday evening, as the reception winds down, we are going to have a showing of “Vanishing of the Bees” in the main hall. This is an excellent documentary on CCD, a must see!

During the conference, the Oregon State University Department of Horticulture will be staffing an entomology lab to allow beekeepers to bring in samples for analysis and to better understand how the samples are used in research. We can also learn how to analyze our own samples.

The alternate tract on Friday will be the traditional Bee School; on Saturday, the alternate tract will be Natural Beekeeping and Sustainable Methods. This will cover how to minimize chemical treatments, survivor stock, nutrition, and all products of the hive from beeswax to propolis and venom therapy. There will also be talks on mead making, alternative pollinators, and alternative hives such as the Warre/top-bar configurations. People just interested in the Saturday session can attend the one day for only \$75.

Presentations this year include those by guest speakers Randy Oliver, Susan Cobey, Deborah Delaney, Ramesh Sagili, Stephen Pernal, Tom Rinderer, Dewey Caron, Judy Wu, Steve Sheppard, George Hansen, Mike Rodia, and Pat Heitkam.

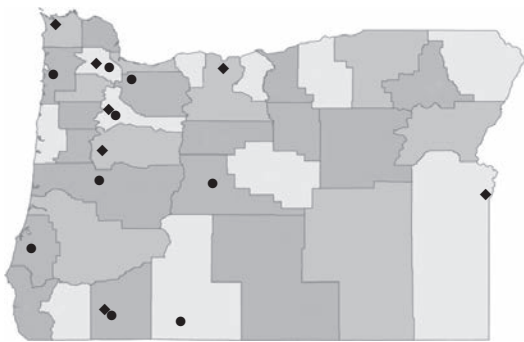
What about food and lodging?

Of course, there will be food. Complimentary hors d’oeuvres will be served during the Thursday evening reception before the movie. On Friday we have the Research Luncheon and, in the evening, the Banquet

Continued on page 10



Oregon State Beekeepers Association EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ASSOCIATIONS



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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
judyscher@gmail.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
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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 (7:00 PM to socialize), last Friday
Cameron Public Svcs Bldg, 155 N First Ave, Hillsboro

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

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Dr. Ramesh Sagili
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REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

Portland Metro

Have heard reports that honey harvests have had mixed results in our area. Personally, ours was good. There's even a few blackberries still blooming in places, but probably not for long with this hot weather. I'm watching my bees to make sure they have enough water and left a super of honey each on two of my weak hives. Have had a couple of calls wanting to know where to get information/classes on raising a colony, because they jumped in not knowing much and now are wondering where the honey is. September is here, and winter bees are in the making. Conference plans for November are also in the making.

—Bev Koch

South Willamette Valley

Hello Sunshine! It seems that summer is here after all at the time of this letter. Honey should be off and treatments on. Here in the South Valley, we managed to survive one of the most interesting years ever seen. The bees seem to have weathered the production season all right, and even to have put on some weight for the fall. If you need to feed those bees, make sure to use a 2:1 dilution ratio of sugar to water. Reduce those entrances and watch for robbing, as things can get crazy fast. I cannot stress enough to my fellow keepers out there to monitor your mites and heft those hives from here on out. In our own operation, we have seen from 0 mites to 20 mites fall per 300 in a sugar shake. Bee aware or wake up in the spring with dead hives. Enjoy that honey, and watch the leaves fall as another season comes to an end.

—Jason Rowan

Regional Associations

Lane County Beekeepers

Lane County honey harvest was mixed this year, but many members report a lower than normal amount. Whatever the result, LCBA members managed to enter honey and other products of the hive in the 2011 Lane County Fair. Fair judging was done by Brandt Weaver; the big LCBA display, as well as the judging table display, was set up by Ken Ograin.

We also have a wonderful display at the Eugene Public Library until the end of October (see photos [next page]). This project was organized by LCBA member and EPL employee Kate MacQueen.



Front (left) and back (right) of the display set up by Lane County beekeepers at the Eugene Public Library.

Last month, Judy Scher gave a talk on fall and winter hive management. September's meeting will be a talk by Dr. Jason Friesen, who will speak about bee stings and allergies.

—Judy Scher

Portland Metro Beekeepers

President Nancy McFarlane recommended that we contribute to the OSU bee research program, and the club approved. She handed out the latest containers for gathering bees so that the OSU research team and our members can get information about diseases.

A roundtable discussion of fall beekeeping ensued: Member Jim Barlean: “make sure you still have a

queen.” If the hive is very weak, “push them into a five-frame nuc for the winter.” It is too late to requeen, so combining two hives is an option. Member Kerry Haskins: “not too late to treat for Varroa.” We were then given a talk on Preparing for Winter by Dr. Dewey Caron. He divides the inspections into two. The first fall inspection is from mid-August to Labor Day. The follow-up inspection is from the end of September to Columbus Day. The first is to find any problems, and the second is to see how well your management has worked if problems are found. He suggests moving the hive toward “optimal colony configuration.” This, with pest management, means “our bees have a chance” to make it through the winter. Dr. Caron noted that this year there are more diseases than during many years. Yet, his studies indicate that beekeepers may be coming out of a difficult period and that bee loss numbers may be improving. Regarding Varroa treatment, he noted that the prime ingredient in Apistan, pyrethroids, has been correlated with “killing bees.” We might be “shooting ourselves in the foot.” The research on neonicotinoids does not show the same correlation; however, there may be cumulative damage from many different chemicals. Next month's meeting will be on Apitherapy: Beyond Bee Stings by Molly Romero.

—Paul Jarrett

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Tillamook County Beekeepers

Members reported on their honey yields for this summer. Overall, beekeepers had a very modest harvest this season. Tillamook County receives a late honey flow. This is a dark red honey, and we're always mystified about its source. Club members speculate that this honey may come from either Japanese knotweed or the tulip poplar. Sample kits were offered for the OSU Honey Bee Health Survey, with half of our club participating. At the end of the meeting, we had a honey tasting with baked bread, which rounded things out for September. —Terry Fullan

KEEPING BEES IN OCTOBER

Todd Balsiger

October is usually the month when summer/fall-like weather ends and winter begins. In general, it is relatively benign for the first two or three weeks, but by Halloween winter arrives in earnest. These first two or three weeks are our last window to finalize preparations for winter.

- ❖ Continue to check for light hives. Heft the hives (lift one side up). They should be noticeably heavy. If not, you can either fortify these hives with frames of honey or feed a saturated sugar solution (60% sugar, balance water by weight). Feed them early enough to allow the syrup to ripen.
- ❖ If you choose, feed two gallons of Fumidil-B medicated syrup to control Nosema disease. If feeding for weight, this medicated syrup should be fed last.
- ❖ Place a barrier between the bottom of the hive and the ground—for example, pallets, corrugated metal sheets, cinder blocks, and such.
- ❖ Keep hives exposed to the sun with entrances faced away from prevailing winds. Tilt the hives so water

drains away from the entrance. Ensure proper upper ventilation, and make sure the lids do not leak.

- ❖ Add entrance reducers/mouse guards.
- ❖ Find and remove dead-outs, and place in storage or toss if the useful life has passed (I am talking about bee equipment here!). Protect frames from wax moths (okay, Dewey, from wax moth *larvae*). If you use moth crystals, make sure they are paradichlorobenzene.
- ❖ During cold weather, if the lids are removed and thus break the propolis seals, you may want to secure lids to prevent them from being blown off. A suggestion: if you make lids from plywood, use 3/4-inch.

Adapted from: October 2010 issue of *The Bee Line*.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: Used Drum Picker (\$150) and Two Barrel Trucks (newer one for \$195, and older one for \$69). Contact GloryBee Foods, Inc., at **800.456.7923**, extension 110. GloryBee Foods, Inc. Eugene, Oregon.

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QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Question

I opened up both of my hives in early August. They have TONS of capped brood, in some cases all the way out to the edges of the frames. There are larvae and eggs, but there is NO honey. None. Only a few pollen cells, and no honey, capped or otherwise. Plenty of room. I thought they might be bracing for a swarm, and reversed the boxes, but there's ample space up and down, side to side... Honey super on top of two deeps, but bees haven't even bothered to draw out comb in it. Would it be possible that they are building up their population in order to collect a late-season harvest?

Response

Dewey Caron: This is classic Italian bees. They have so far neglected to store anything away for the rainy days ahead. Keith Delaplane in Georgia labels the behavior of bees rearing ever-more brood at the expense of storing surplus as "reckless spending." It would appear the colonies just got big (may or may not have swarmed) and so far refuse to begin to hunker down for fall. Two basic remedies: (1) Confine the queen to the lowest box (with queen excluder). Then get out feeders (several of them) and feed as much heavy syrup in several containers above the colony as

your pocketbook and time to task can take. Switch from heavy syrup to dry sugar as rains close out fall activity in mid-October. (The *Farmers' Almanac* says October will not be very rainy, but November will be rainier than normal.) This is to avoid feeding sugar syrup when bees can't dry and ripen it into capped honey. (2) The "fall back" option is to do nothing. Some individuals do not want to feed "sugar" (= non-organic + expensive + a lot of work), so they just hope for a good fall honey flow and cooler temperatures to "wake" the bees up to the approach of winter. If there is a fall flow and it is stored above the brood, then the colony might be okay.

Note: Dewey has learned that this same question was sent to Jerry Hayes, whose response will appear in a future **The Classroom**, the monthly column he writes for *American Bee Journal*. Stay tuned!

Question

First year beekeeper here. I'm not understanding the reason for feeding bees in the fall. Is it to prevent them from breaking into their honey stores? or storing sugar for use through the winter? or to make them "fat" bees for the winter?

Response

Dewey Caron: Feeding bees in the fall serves all three functions. It depends upon the colony. Some colonies can benefit from additional food stores to overwinter—often new colonies, such as captured swarms or package bees, need such feeding attention. Feeding sugar water while temperatures are still adequate for ripening can result in capped sugar water honey stores, a winter feed better than honey ripened from flower nectar during lengthy confinement to the hive. And fall stores help a colony rear "fat" bees with plenty of bodily food reserves so they can live the 5–6 months necessary for colony survival over the winter. Fall feeding can also help ensure the Optimal Colony Configuration—a brood cluster in the lower box and top box full of capped honey, which is important for overwintering success.

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A CURIOUS CASE OF ROBBING

Joy Markgraf

I recently had an unusual experience with black robber honey bees attacking my apiary. I live in an isolated area, mainly forested, near Husum, Washington. I have been keeping bees for three years and have eleven hives. The robbing started on August 4 and continued until August 24, when I was forced to move my hives to another location. They were never intended to be moved because I house them in an open bee house in my backyard. Currently, no other apiaries are located within a three-mile radius.

All but three of my hives are very strong, but the robbers attacked all of them. I made every attempt to prevent and deter the robbers using smoke, wet sheets, reduced entrances, and finally robber screens and so forth, but they kept coming. They would arrive in huge swarms from the north in a black stream/highway, with a menacing buzz in a loud, high-pitched roar. They zigzagged as they approached the entrances, and attacked them in a frenzied way, as in a World War II battle, for from two to six hours each day. On August 12, I started using a vacuum to stop them, but they kept coming. On August 19, robbers appeared at four o'clock and attacked five of my strongest colonies. I had robber screens installed and used the vacuum to suck bees from the face of them.

During the first week, most of the attackers were forager bees, but, to my surprise, on this day most of them were drones—thousands of them! I knew they were not my drones, because I watched all of my colonies get rid of them. At least it made it easier to decide which bees to suck up, and I quickly filled a vacuum with them (about a gallon).

By August 24, I had disposed of about 8 gallons of bees. I can't believe I did this. I love honey bees and all pollinators, but I couldn't stand by and watch my apiary be destroyed.

You might wonder if I decimated my own bees, but I inspected my colonies after I moved the hives to a new yard, and I found they were full of bees. Four of the hives were empty of honey, however. The robbers appear very different than my Carniolan bees. They

Right: Wrapping hives with wet sheets was among the interventions used to reduce the impact of robbing. Yet, despite the use of sheets—along with reducing the entrances, vacuuming, and installing robber screens, the robber bees continued to return to the apiary.



Left: Dead bees on August 14 after a battle at the entrance of a top-bar hive. Joy was busy on the opposite side of the bee house where she was vacuuming bees, and this hive was briefly on its own.

are smaller and have three distinct colors; a large proportion are pure black, some have a brown and black abdomen, and others are striped. I have read that few, if any, *Apis mellifera mellifera* still exist in the wild, but these might come close to it. I've also discovered that some people are interested in them for increasing genetic diversity in the honey bee. Maybe the robber bees can be baited and their bee tree found with the queen. It is fascinating that they may have survived here since the settling of the West.

Note: I asked several people about Joy's experience because of the intensity of the robbing, the finding of drones, and other seemingly "odd" things. The events remain somewhat unexplained and still raise questions, as follows:

Dewey Caron responded—*This is a baffling story. Usually the end result of robbing is death of the colony and loss of honey. Here outcome after a prolonged attack was only honey loss. Perhaps the bees used their stores for defense to fight off the robbers—which it seems they were able to do with the aid of the beekeeper. Robbing has been a common event this fall.*

Lynn Royce provided a number of what she refers to as "random thoughts," including—*Were the robbers Africanized honey bees? Did some kind of parasite alter their behavior—for either swarming or robbing? Good work on behalf of the beekeeper in the attempted intervention. How much do we really know about robbing behavior anyway? Are there samples for morphometric analysis?*

The Bee Line

Joy was able to preserve perhaps too few bees for analysis with all else going on, but they will be checked soon. Her attitude is reflected in an email I received after she sent this article, in which she states—*I've decided these are good days in the apiary because I am "attending an intensive school in beekeeping." The robbing caused changes that I never had to deal with before and hopefully I will know better how to handle in the future.*

Hopefully, that future, whatever may be, includes no more events like this one.

2011 Conference—Continued from page 3

followed by the fundraising auction. On Saturday we are taking a little extra time for lunch so we can patronize local restaurants.

Special rates are available at the Best Western Ocean View Resort (800.234.8439) and the Inn at Seaside (800.699.5070). Be sure to ask for the *Beekeepers Fall Conference special room rate* when you make your reservation.

Registration forms and detailed conference proceedings are available on the Oregon State Beekeepers Association website: www.orsba.org.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Note: At the time of printing, the conference agenda is being finalized with specific topics and schedule of presentations. Information will be posted on the website (www.orsba.org) as it becomes available. A registration form is on page 12.

BEE SCHOOL AT THE CONFERENCE

Thom Trusewicz

There will be a beginning beekeeping class at the OSBA Fall Conference in Seaside this year. The class is a six-hour lecture with over 800 slides. We will meet on Friday of the conference, with a break for lunch. Participants will learn about the anatomy/physiology and habits of the honey bee, including the roles of the workers, drones, and queen; bee behavior, mating, and communication; pests and diseases; swarming; honey, wax, propolis, and other hive products; and how to manage colonies for successful outcomes with pollination and honey and wax production. The class will also consider



integrated pest management and natural ways of hive management. This is a great class for those who want to hit the ground running next spring when the bees are available and for those who just want to learn more about honey bees and how to keep them.

CONFERENCE LINEUP

An introduction to some of the main players Paul Andersen has lined up for the upcoming conference includes:

Dewey Caron, Ph.D., is a Vermont native who learned all about bees during graduate studies at Cornell University with Dr. Roger Morse. He began teaching beekeeping at Cornell, then continued 11 years at the University of Maryland, and for an additional 28 years at the University of Delaware. Now retired, he continues to teach beekeeping and assist beekeepers, and is active in international development activities.

Susan Cobey, Ph.D., is Research Associate, University of California-Davis and Washington State University. She is working to expand the collaborative efforts between the two universities to enhance domestic honey bee breeding stocks through the incorporation of germplasm collected from European honey bees abroad. Her background includes commercial queen production in Florida and California, the establishment of a queen breeding business, and the founding of the New World Carniolan line.

Debbie Delaney, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor at the University of Delaware. During her M.S. work at Oregon State University, she looked at the effects of coumaphos on drone honey bee sperm. Her Ph.D. research with Dr. Steve Sheppard at Washington State University focused on the genetic diversity of honey bee populations, and work as a postdoc with Dr. David Tarpy at North Carolina State University involved queen mating health. Currently, she is working on feral honey bee populations; the temporal stability of native pollinators in fragmented ecosystems; and Africanization and honey bee gut health.

George Hansen is an active member of the beekeeping community, has served several times



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as president of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association, and promotes the industry's interests as vice president of the American Beekeeping Federation and work with the National Honey Board. With Foothills Honey Company, located in Colton, Oregon, he has provided honey, commercial pollination for a variety of Pacific Northwest and California crops, and starter colonies for sale both to hobbyists and professionals for over 30 years. He and his wife Susan host an annual Bee Day workshop and orientation.

Pat Heitkam is past president of the American Beekeeping Federation and has long been involved with Oregon State Beekeepers Association. He has worked on behalf of honey bees and beekeepers, both politically and through aiding research. With Heitkams' Honey Bees, located in Orland, California, he has produced queens as well as supplied colonies for commercial pollination and honey production for over 25 years.

Randy Oliver is a beekeeper and researcher with a beekeeping enterprise in Grass Valley, California. He has 40 years of practical beekeeping experience, manages colonies for migratory pollination, and produces queens, nucs, and honey. Through his research and review of beekeeping information from all over the world, he works to broaden understanding and develop practical solutions to many of today's beekeeping problems, which he shares through articles in bee magazines, speaking engagements, and his website: www.ScientificBeekeeping.com.

Stephen Pernal, Ph.D., is Research Scientist, Apiculture, Officer-in-Charge, Beaverlodge Research Farm, Lacombe Research Centre, Alberta, and president of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists. His areas of expertise include management and detection of honey bee diseases; detection and reduction of antibiotic residues in honey; control of parasitic mites of honey bees; improvement of honey bee nutrition; and pollination of crops by honey bees. Among current projects are the safe and efficacious use of antibiotics for the control of honey bee brood diseases that minimize residue deposition in honey; improvement of disease management in honey bees; and management of honey bee diseases using lysozyme.

Tom Rinderer, Ph.D., is Research Leader, Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Research, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Current research projects include improving honey bee health, survivorship, and pollination availability; breeding, genetics, stock improvement, and management of Russian honey bees for mite and small hive beetle

control and pollination; development and use of mite resistance traits in honey bee breeding; the PWA areawide program for improving honey bee health; and susceptibility of Australian honey bee stocks to Varroa.

Mike Rodia, Ph.D., is a Salem-area beekeeper who is active in the Willamette Valley association and in reviewing legislation, preparing materials and arguments, and testifying (with success) in support of keeping bees in local areas banning the practice. Interested in chemistry since the age of ten, he completed his doctoral work in organic chemistry with a minor in biochemistry at the University of Oregon. He has extensive experience and expertise in reviewing and writing legislation as well as in developing statewide safety training on exposure to hazardous materials in the workplace, has taught chemistry and toxicology, and has been involved in pesticide research.

Ramesh Sagili, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University. His research interests include honey bee health, nutrition, pheromone biology, and pollination. Among current research projects are the effects of pollen quality on honey bee nutrition; use of synthetic brood pheromone to enhance pollen foraging; and surveys of honey bee health. He initiated the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, which will begin taking applications during the conference.

Steve Sheppard, Ph.D., is Professor, Graduate Faculty, Apiculturist, Thurber Memorial Chair, and Chair of the Department of Entomology at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington. His areas of interest include population genetics and evolution of honey bees; insect introductions; and mechanisms of genetic differentiation. He also heads the *Apis* Molecular Systematics Laboratory.

Thom Trusewicz is a beekeeper in Astoria who has been teaching Bee School for Beginners for nearly ten years. He has presented at four previous OSBA conferences, offers the class every winter at Clatsop Community College, and has taught it in Bend, Coos Bay, Central Point, and Boise, Idaho. He has been a presenter for the last five years at the Portland Metro Beekeepers Association Bee Day in Colton, and is the Webkeeper for the OSBA website, Message Board, and Facebook Page.

Judy Wu is a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota, where she is studying effects of neonicotinyl pesticides on honey bees and bumble bees. She received her Masters degree in May 2010 from Washington State University, where she worked with Dr. Steve Sheppard on the sublethal effects of pesticide residues in brood comb on honey bee health.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association 2011 Fall Conference

☞ November 17, 18, and 19, 2011 ☜

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Make check **payable to OSBA** and mail with this **completed registration form**,
postmarked no later than November 7, to:


Paul Kowash, 5959 SW Taylors Ferry Rd, Portland OR 97219

Note: Hotel reservations are not included in these costs. Special rates are available at the Best Western Ocean View Resort (800.234.8439) and the Inn at Seaside (800.699.5070). Be sure to ask for the *Beekeepers Fall Conference* special room rate when you make your reservation.

¹ The Friday luncheon is limited to the first 150 registrants. Those who do not attend the luncheon and all who attend the conference on Saturday will have time to explore Seaside and its many attractions as well as enjoy lunch at area restaurants.

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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. 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, please send check made payable to OSBA with this completed form to:

Paul Kowash, 5959 SW Taylors Ferry Rd, Portland OR 97219

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

The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little ways past them into the impossible.

—Arthur C. Clarke

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 November-December 2011 issue. The deadline for submitting copy is October 10. *Thank you!*

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