

# The Bee Line

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Newsletter of the  
Oregon State Beekeepers Association

December  
1991

## John Fruetel, inventor and manufacturer, is friend to beekeeping

"We can't all become a Henry Ford but there is enough to go around," stated John Fruetel (Free-tle), referring to the many machines he has created for the farming and beekeeping communities. Well over 200 bee booms are spread from here to Florida, Canada and France. "We've heard from every country in the world, except Communist Russia, just from an ad in the American Bee Journal."

In 1930 John began building the Fruetel Bee Boom, a less expensive and simpler variation of booms on the market. At that time he attended a couple state bee conventions where he displayed and demonstrated his boom, both in California and Oregon. He began hearing that some beekeepers wanted something bigger with the ability to move more bees fast. This, of course, started more wheels turning and by 1985 the Fruetel Fork Lift was on the market. That fall John took it to the California convention, at Lake Tahoe, and drove it right into Caesars Palace. "We thought we had the ultimate!" But he soon learned beekeepers wanted a better handler. "They wanted something smooth, 4-wheel drive, and faster. Improvements were made and many of our Oregon beekeepers are satisfied owners of the Fruetel Fork Lift. Although he has sold four the Christmas tree and fruit growers, he



estimates 24 are in use by the bee industry in Oregon, California, Washington, and Arizona.

John has a "keep it simple" philosophy; one wrench is all you need to remove and replace the canopy, fenders and many other parts. Over 100 5/16th inch nuts and bolts are used throughout the forklift. The hydraulic reservoir is built into the frame. Any you won't find any high-tech integrated circuitry in this machine.

"It's got a wire and key—basic. There's nothing tricky here. These guys are out in the boonies and they want to understand it. Simplicity—you can't get too simple. The basics, that's all."

He dreamed up the idea for how to power the forklift one day while cruising along Interstate 5. "Driving on the freeway is a great place to think about these things, as long as you don't crash, and I haven't yet." But he has driven by his exit a time or two while concentrating on some mechanical problem.

The freeway inspiration was to take a frontwheel drive Nissan Sentra engine and automatic transmission, turn the unit 90 degrees and install it in the forklift. One axle now points for-

*Continued on page 2*

ward, to power the front wheels, the other toward the rear, to power the rear wheels.

"And boy, you've got a four-wheel drive.

"The real inventor is the beekeeper who thinks all this out then explains what he needs. All you have to do is listen to him." When words fail, he and his customer sketch diagrams in chalk on the shop floor. He has had just one of his machines committed to a blueprint. Most are described on hand-drawn plans that stuff a file drawer.

"It'd take a long time to count up all the junk we've made around here," he said. John has created other machines for the grass seed industry, tractor attachments, including boom rakes and harrows, a machine that compresses Christmas trees onto a pallet, a corn topper, and trailers and truck beds of every kind you can think of. A lot of it is one-of-a-kind."

John grew up on a farm on the North Dakota prairie, son of German parents. Otto, his best friend, spoke only German until entering grade school. He learned how to fix and invent machinery on the farm. "Out on the prairie, farmers had to make do." There wasn't much money. "Me and Otto didn't have bicycles, but we always made things." John had seven years schooling but a lifetime of self-taught knowledge about machinery. He went to work at 13 and left home at 15.

John was a Chevrolet mechanic from 1953-74, then founded John Fruetel Enterprises. He and his wife Jean have lived on Peoria Road between Albany and Corvallis since 1965. He retired this spring, at 62, but then made promises to build three more forklifts. As you can imagine, he doesn't sit still; he started a new house in April and finished it in November, collects and restores old cars and is working on his latest project, restoring a 1945 military Jeep. Even though John is retired he gets lots of calls to build things; I asked him if he wasn't tempted? He answered, "I think, oh, I could just as well do that..." but so far he has referred those requests to Roger and Peter who worked for him for years. Roger has opened his own shop and thus far has built 12 bee booms and one forklift along with many other items. If you are interested you can contact Roger at Fix and Fab, 3993 B Commercial Way SE, Albany. Phone is 925-2202.

If you ever have the pleasure of meeting John, you won't forget him. He always has a smile, an optimistic attitude, and, I am sure, another creation in the works.

Source: Albany Democrat-Herald

## Attention, Beekeepers —

Several beekeepers have contacted me concerning OSBA filing a section 18 for emergency use of MITICUR (trade name of amitraz).

After checking with Bob Mitchell, ODA, it was apparent that an extensive amount of work was to be done and a section 18 could not be approved in time for spring treatment because of the EPA time line.

NOR-AM Chemical Company has received word from EPA that Miticur should have a full registration approved by the end of the quarter. If this happens, our work in applying would be futile. So, with this in mind, I contacted George Raymond, of NOR-AM; he suggested that we wait until June. If in June NOR-AM has not been granted approval by the EPA, we will proceed with our plan to apply for the section 18 registration.

The June filing will still allow approval in time for a fall treatment, following the honey flow. It will also allow more time to prepare the appropriate documentation.

**In the mean time, you could help by writing the EPA informing them of the need for Miticur.**

Here are a few points:

- Our industry is in peril due to the lack of approved chemicals to control mites.
- Winter kill surveys begun in 1988 have shown 30 to 80 percent losses in infested hives, compared with 5 percent in uninfested hives.
- Menthol has proved inconsistent in our climate.
- "Healthy" honey bees are essential to food production!

Send your letter to Mr. Dennis Edwards, PM 19, Office of Pesticide Programs (H7505c), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460, (703) 557-2386.

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**President's Note –**

I hope you will read the following article with interest and give thought to joining our "V formation" so that we will have a better sense of direction and in turn strengthen our association.

## The Sense of a Goose

Most of us are familiar with the sight of migrating geese, flying along in V-formation, headed north or south as the season dictates, all of one mind, and all in line.

As members of the nation's agricultural community, we would do well to take note of those geese. We are currently facing many challenges, many of them seemingly based on misinformation and just plain ignorance about the way nature really operates, and how we, the growers of America, fit into the scheme.

If we are going to get our message across and survive these troubled times, we need to get our act together. We need the sense of a goose. We need to fly in V-formation.

**Why?**

Well, with the geese, as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an updraft for the bird immediately following. By flying together in V-formation, the whole flock adds up to 71% to its flying range! How much farther can we go in V-formation? We'll get farther and get there more easily if we travel on trust of one another.

If a goose falls out of formation, the drag and resistance of trying to do it alone soon convinces him to rejoin the group as soon as possible. If we have the sense of a goose, we'll stay in formation with those who are headed in the direction we want to go.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates to the back and another goose flies the point. It pays to take turns on the hard jobs. Another thing about goose sense: you hear them honking as they fly by, which scientists say is basically a form of encouragement to the leaders to keep up their speed. If we have the sense of a goose, we'll support and encourage our leaders. Be careful what message you are honking!

If a goose falls sick, or is shot and wounded and falls out of formation, two other geese will fall out with him and stay together until the goose dies or can fly again. Then they set out again, sometimes on their own, sometimes temporarily with another formation, to catch up to their group. If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other.

That, as I see it, is the strength of our organization. With this "sense of a goose," we can get there without too many of us being shot out of the sky.

We need to be firm in our direction. What field of grain or river of clean water is our instinctive goal? We know that what works for the good of the land also works for the good of the people and the rest of the animal world.

If we get up there with that broader view, in V-formation, and have the "sense of a goose," we CAN maintain the productivity of America, be it cattle or cabbages, wool or watermelons, turkeys or trees.

*Helen Finney, Timber Chair*

*(The idea about the geese came from a speech made by Dr. Harvey Bennett, President of Rogue Community College, Grants Pass, Oregon, as reported in the January/February 1991 issue of EVERGREEN.)*



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# Africanized bees deserve 'bad boy' reputation

## Minimal mixing with commercial bees produces aggressive reaction

by Carolyn Homan, *Capital Press* Managing Editor

SALEM, Ore. — Research on Africanized bees in Mexico suggests that minimal cross-breeding with commercial bee populations will have "dramatic" negative effects on bee behavior, according to a University of California scientist.

Rob Page, entomologist at UC-Davis, updated Oregon beekeepers last week on movement of Africanized bees toward the U.S. and findings so far in research he has conducted on bees in Mexico. The Oregon State Beekeepers Association heard a variety of speakers outlining what successful beekeeping in the 1990s will take.

Africanized bees have advanced to a point about 800 miles south of Mexicali, on the border with California. At the current movement of 500 kilometers a year, Page said officials anticipate California entry two to three years from now.

Mexico has an active program to replace Africanized queens with European queens and officials believe it's helping slow the progress of the Africanized bees.

Page has been working with Miel Vita Real beekeeping operation in Mexico to try to assess some of the effects of Africanized bees on a commercial bee population.

His research looked at defensive behaviors and evaluated stinging response. To study the bees, Page's research team artificially inseminated queens in order to control the percent of hybridization. That way behavior of pure European bees could be compared with those of Africanized and various hybrids in between.

An electrophoresis laboratory has been set up for evaluation of bee proteins for identification purposes.

Researchers evaluated stinging behavior by recording time to first sting after a stimulus (a black leather patch) was presented at the hive

entrance. "No much African" influence was required to boost the speed of defensive reaction, Page said.

Pure European bees waited nearly a full minute before launching defensive response. With just 12.5 percent Africanized blood, the response time was cut almost in half. With a 50 percent hybrid, the response time was not that much different than full African—around 10 seconds to the first response.

The number of stings also was recorded and "hybrid bees were much more likely to be stingers" than European, Page said. European bees posted 24 stings on average; Africanized, 138 stings. A 50-50 hybrid showed 134 stings per minute.

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*"Not much African influence was required to boost the speed of defensive reaction"*

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"So what we show is the effect of genetic dominance for a strong defensive reaction." The results also are "somewhat disturbing" because they suggest "it's not going to take very much mixing of Africanized bees into the commercial bee population to have some dramatic effects on behavior, increasing defensiveness."

The experience of the Mexican beekeeper cooperating with Page corroborates the research. He saw the first Africanized bees in his area just a year ago. When he took his honey crop off this year, "his bees went bananas," Page said, killing 10 chickens and three large farm animals. The beekeeper is already in trouble with his neighbors, Page said.

The reaction of neighbors to more aggressive bees has been a concern for U.S. beekeepers already sensitive to the rural-urban split and condemnation of agricultural practices.

Page also had some good news in another study of backcrossing to European queens. "It took only one backcross to restore more European kind of behavior," Page said. The study shows that if beekeepers can get more European drones out into the bee population they will go a long way toward restoring desired reaction in their bees, he said.

*Reprinted with permission from The Capital Press*

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## Bee Plants in the Garden

## Daffodils

by B.A. Stringer

One of the first sure signs that spring is really on its way is the emergence of daffodils. Plantings of this flower have survived around many old homesteads and drifts of yellow in spring are often reminders of former homestead sites.

Daffodils are especially valuable because they are hardy and perennial, they increase every year and they are not eaten by gophers. Each spring they bear cheery flowers in a large variety of shapes and colours, and provide one of the very early sources of pollen for honey bees. The bees can be seen crawling into the flower tubes and emerging with golden pollen.

The best providers of pollen are the single varieties of daffodil. The flowers usually face the sun, so remember to plant them where they will face you on a sunny day, rather than turning away from view. After the bloom is over, allow the strap-like leaves to mature and make food for the bulb. Unattractive foliage can be hidden by ground cover plantings.

Daffodils signal overcrowded conditions when their flowers get fewer and smaller. When this happens, lift the bulbs after the foliage has died down, divide the clumps and reset at once. The flowers look particularly attractive when they are naturalized in drifts or scattered under trees or shrubs.

Another early flower which is well visited for both nectar and pollen is the Snowdrop. This bulb bears white flowers with three large and three small petals marked with green. The pollen is bright yellow-orange in the flower and shiny yellow-brown in the bee's load.



Snowdrops are an early source of high quality pollen and some nectar at a time when few other flowers have ventured out. While the flowers are delicately scented in the garden, be aware that their fragrance may become overpoweringly intense inside a room.

Daffodils are in the *Narcissus* genus which is organized into 11 generally recognized divisions, including the Trumpets, Small- and Large-cupped daffodils, Doubles and Jonquilla hybrids. When selecting bulbs, keep in mind that the ruffled doubles produce prettiness at the expense of pollen.

Daffodils, Snowdrops and Snowflakes belong in the *Amaryllidaceae* family, all of which have strap-shaped leaves, bulbous roots and flowers on top of a leafless stem. For fragrant spring cheer and early nectar and pollen, consider including some of these bulbs in your garden.

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B.A. Stringer is co-author of *Nectar and Pollen Plants of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest*, an illustrated dictionary of northwest bee plants. It is available from Honeystone Press, PO Box 511, Blodgett, OR 97326, for \$11.95 postpaid.

**This letter was received from Lynn A. Royce, assistant professor at OSU...**

October 11, 1991

Dear Beekeepers,

As you are aware there have been more winter losses of colonies in the last few years due to tracheal mites in the Pacific Northwest than to any other ailment in the beekeeping industry. The approved acaricide, Menthol, is just not effective here in the Northwest. There has been much talk about mite resistant queens and there have been some imported from foreign countries. Many researchers, queenbreeders and beekeepers believe that it would be better to develop resistant stock from our colonies on the west coast.

There has been a lot of interest here in formic acid and it has shown promise in some preliminary studies. Formic acid, like menthol, occurs naturally in honey. Due to the many requests and also to the real need for better breeding stock and treating agents, OSU is developing some research on these items. We have begun with resistant stock from Leonard Heins, Sierra Vista, Arizona. The mite infestation levels, mite load, bee population and colony productivity will be monitored in these colonies and compared with colonies treated with formic acid and colonies with no treatment (controls). Colonies will be kept on pallets, four per pallet with 10 colonies used for each treatment (resistant queens, acaricide) and 10 control colonies. Our aim is to look at the effect of mites on colonies in a migratory commercial outfit and determine if formic acid or resistant stock can moderate the detrimental effects of tracheal mites and improve colony overwintering ability. We believe that we can accomplish these goals in a two year study for approximately \$8,000.

I'm sure that you are aware right now that it costs \$15 per sample for tracheal mite sampling by the state. With the program that we have set up these costs should run approximately \$10 per sample. There will be additional costs for labor (colony treatment, sampling, honey bee population estimates, data analysis, etc) and treatment materials. Depending on funding, other queen stocks and acaricides could also be tested for efficacy in the Pacific Northwest.

Many commercial beekeepers have indicated already that they would be willing to help pay for tracheal mite research. We are asking the OSBA to contribute (suggested \$1000) toward this research if you feel the study will have benefits for beekeep-

ing. Please consider approaching others who may also be interested in contributing to this research. Healthier, more populous colonies provide better value for their pollination dollars.

We will publish progress reports in *The Bee Line* and send them to contributors upon request.

Sincerely,  
Lynn A. Royce, Ph.D.

### **Scullen Endowment Fund provides fellowships to deserving scholars**

The Herman Scullen Endowment Fund is designed to provide a fellowship award to deserving young people and to support graduate studies in apiculture at Oregon State University. It is appropriate that this fund, created in 1986, be named for Dr. Scullen who contributed much to apiculture during this 40 year career of teaching, research and extension.

As we are aware, the tone of the industry is one of great concern, especially with regard to pests and African bees. We are facing many challenges and the need for effective research is clear. Your continued interest in and support of the Scullen Fund will make the difference.

The fund totals \$11,561 as of October 31. It has been invested and the income re-invested to reach this figure. It is now time to see the Scullen Fund contribute to the apiculture program.

The first Herman Scullen Fellowship was presented this fall to Miss Chutikarn Kitprasert. A native of Thailand, she is on leave from the Thai Ministry of Agriculture to complete a Ph.D. program at OSU. Her research concerns the natural defenses of honey bees to parasitic brood mites.



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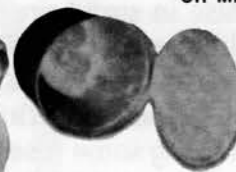


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## ODA report given at Apairy Advisory Committee meeting

At the Advisory Committee meeting on November 20, 1991, chairman Bruce Yeager asked Mr. Hawkes to give a report on the status of the budget and what we can expect for the future. The legislature approved a bill giving the Department of Agriculture \$50,000 in general fund money, of which approximately \$6,000 is for overhead costs. In addition to the \$50,000, the Apairy program brings in about \$25,000 annually in fees collected from licenses, which gives the program about \$94,000 in operating money for the biennium. The program ran a deficit last biennium and had to be shut down last spring. Approximately \$10,000 has been spent to date this biennium and that has been totally in inspectors' salaries.

Beekeepers going to California should have no problems. The state of California is not requiring any kind of paperwork for entry this year. However, there are four counties which are requiring an inspection certificate (Butte, Glenn, Tehama, and Merced); there are differences in what the counties are requiring. Beekeepers will need to contact the county to find out what they require.

All is quiet with the Africanized bee right now because we are in the fall/winter period. Approximately 350 swarms were detected in South Texas in 1991. APHIS is currently assisting in the survey and detection work in Texas. The African bee is known to be in 21 counties in Texas. If APHIS stays true to form, when the bee has been found "naturally occurring" in other areas, APHIS will probably rescind their quarantine.

Oregon's varroa mite problem remains about the same. Washington has found an infestation of varroa mite where there were estimates of more than 5,000 mites per hive. Washington is not doing a complete survey of all the colonies in Washington; they are only working on statistical sampling and finding the mites while they are doing requested inspections. They believe that the large number of mites found is due to the amount of California beekeepers that come to Washington. As in Oregon, not all beekeepers in Washington are treating for varroa mite; the beekeepers that do treat are reporting good control.

## President's commentary —

At the Advisory Committee meeting in November the feeling of the meeting evolved into a general acceptance that the bee laws and registration will probably be done away with in Oregon within the next year.

The governor is making changes in the Ag Department and other agencies which will dissolve many parts of the department now served, including this advisory board.

It is very likely that the bee program will not receive any general fund money for the next biennium. If this happens, a bill will be sent to the legislature by the Department of Agriculture to deregulate the apiary inspection program.

Without a bee law or an agency to call on, mites and the African bee will have to be dealt with by beekeepers and the public, making it more important that individual beekeepers be better informed and pull together as an organization.

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### OSBA HAPPENINGS

1992

- July 18th** Summer Picnic/Bee Day, hosted by Tillamook Beekeepers
- Nov. 13-14** Joint Oregon/Washington Convention hosted by OSBA, Greenwood Inn, Beaverton.

**Note:** Because of the joint Oregon/Washington convention in November, one month earlier than usual, the spring meeting and summer picnic have been combined. The picnic will be held on Saturday, July 18, rather than in August and will serve as a picnic/bee day with speakers and a barbecue.

## Who's Who in Oregon Beekeeping

### 1991 OSBA OFFICERS

**Pres:** Marjorie Ehry 864-2138  
19500 N Hwy 99W  
Dundee, OR 97115

**Vice** Richard Turanski 689-0913

**Pres:** PO Box 2744  
Eugene, OR 97402

**Sec/** Phyllis Shoemake 364-8401

**Treas:** 1874 Winchester NW  
Salem, OR 97304

### REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### Willamette Valley:

Don Ames 935-1644  
25222 Arnold Lane  
Elmira 97437

#### North Coast:

Bob Allen 322-3819  
PO Box 434  
Garibaldi 97118

#### South Coast:

Bruce Yeager 888-6833  
6833 Joe Ney/Davis  
Coos Bay 97420

#### Central Oregon:

Bob Morgan 2985719  
3800 Benson Road  
The Dalles, OR 97058

#### Eastern Oregon:

Dave Lefore 938-3286  
Rte3, Box 207 E  
Milton Freewater, OR 97862

#### Southern Oregon:

George Steffensen 474-4305  
1634 Fish Hatchery Road  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

### AFFILIATE OFFICERS

#### Coos County

**Pres:** John Shank 269-5862

**Sec:** Becky Lieper 267-5089

#### Tualatin Valley

**Pres:** James Marshall 642-3319

**VP/Sec:** George Robin

**Treas:** Patti Jo Campbell

#### Southern Oregon

**Pres:** John Cambell 664-4867

**VP:** Bob Conlogue 899-8961

**Sec:** Dennis Morefield 535-6050

#### Portland

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**VP:** Frank Courtway 761-2961

**Sec:** Carol & Scott  
McConnachie 656-4241

#### Klamath

**Pres:** Ken Crow 882-1893

**VP:** Chet Hamaker 882-2404

#### Lane County

**Pres:** Lloyd Gordinier 344-5851

**VP:** Glenn Miller 937-2070

**Sec:** Christine Erwin 942-7061

**Treas:** Jim Sheridan 344-1354

#### Tillamook County

**Pres:** Bob Allen 322-3819

**VP:** Fritz Hoffman 842-6856

**Sec:** Ed Klock 368-5312

#### Willamette Valley

**Pres:** Walt Nichol 585-5705

**VP:** Darrell Gulstrom

**Sec:** Hamid Kaskaie

**Treas:** Fritz Skirvin 581-9372

### OSBA COMMITTEES

**Honey Promotion:** Joann Olstrom

**Nectar & Pollen Flora:** Bertie Stringer

**Pollination:** Dan Keeley

**Laws & Regulations:** Fritz Skirvin

**State Fair:** Walt Nichol

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**VP:** Bill Rufener 324-2571

Al Freeburne 855-7243

DeWayne Keller 889-8279

Fred Van Natta 585-8254

John Mespelt 926-1850

Bob Morgan 298-5719

### STATE BEE INSPECTOR

David Turner 378-3774  
Department of Agriculture  
635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310

### EXTENSION ENTOMOLOGIST

Dr. Michael Burgett 737-4896  
Department of Entomology  
Oregon State University  
2046 Cordley Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331-2907

## Attention, local affiliates:

Please advise *Bee Line* editor of new officers, including addresses and phone numbers.

## Local Group Meetings

### COOS

Beekeepers gather at the Coquille annex, next to the Extension Service Office, at 7:30 pm on the third Friday of each month except Dec.

### KLAMATH

Meeting places and dates vary. Call either of the officers for particulars.

### LANE

Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Public Employees Credit Union Bldg, 1155 Chambers St, Eugene.

### PORTLAND

Meets in the Oregon City branch of Far West Federal Bank on McLoughlin Blvd, 7:30 pm, the fourth Monday of each month.

### SOUTHERN OREGON

Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Ag Extension Auditorium on Maple Park Dr. Medford.

### TILLAMOOK

Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7:30 pm at the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, 4909 Third St.

### TUALATIN

Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month during the school year at Rock Creek Campus of Potland Com. College, at 7:30 pm in Bldg. #3.

### WILLAMETTE

Beekeepers cluster in Rm 32B at Chemeketa Community College on the fourth Monday of each month from 7:30 to 9:00 pm.



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WRITE FOR NEW 1992 CATALOG

**HONEY MUSTARD DRESSING**

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 tablespoon half-and-half
- 3 tablespoons Dijon-style mustard
- 2 tablespoons honey

Combine all of the ingredients in a large mixing bowl and mix thoroughly. Use generously over fresh fruit or any type of fresh garden salad.

**Membership and Publications**

Membership in the Oregon State Beekeepers Association is open to anyone who has an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join.

**OSBA Membership: \$15 per person. Includes 10 issues of the BEE LINE and a vote** \_\_\_\_\_ **in all OSBA elections. If you belong to a local group, which one?** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## 1992 officers elected

President Marjorie Ehry, Dundee; Vice President Richard Turanski, Eugene; and Secretary/Treasurer Phyllis Shoemake, Salem, were all re-elected for 1992.

Regional representatives remain the same with one exception. Dave Lefore of Milton-Freewater will represent Eastern Oregon, replacing Danny Bade, also of Milton-Freewater.

We want to thank Danny and his wife Melba for their time and support of the OSBA.

By the next issue there will also be a new editor for *The Bee Line*. Connie Petty, recently retired from the Albany Democrat-Herald, has previously edited *The Bee Line* and we look forward to her professional contributions.

Please continue to send in your articles!



Oregon State Beekeepers Association  
**BEE LINE**  
 Marjorie Ehry, Acting Editor  
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