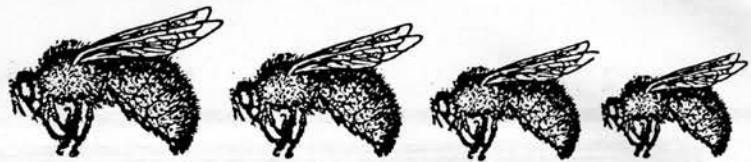


# The Bee Line

The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association



Volume 20, Number 10

November/December 1995

## Fall Conference Program

The agenda and rates for the OSBA Fall Conference December 1 & 2 at Cannon Beach are set. The Conference will feature three major focuses. We will offer expert comment and information on the latest data on Africanized bees and their advance into the United States as well as how beekeepers in other areas have adapted to this bee. We have Dr. Bill Wilson of the USDA Honeybee Lab joining us and informing us on the most recent developments and treatments for both Varroa and tracheal mites, including the latest on alternative treatments and techniques. And, if that is not enough, we will open discussion and maybe lay the ground work for the formation of a professional pollinator's trade group/commission.

All of this and the beauty and pleasures of one of Oregon's premier resort areas - Cannon Beach. But remember, you **MUST MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS WITH THE HALLMARK RESORT BEFORE NOVEMBER 6th TO RESERVE THE SPECIAL OSBA REDUCED ROOM RATE - CALL the Hallmark at 800-345-5676 NOW!**

The Conference Registration will be on-site and rates are as follows:

OSBA Members	\$25
Member family rate (2 passes)	35
Non-member	40*
Non-member family (2 passes)	50*

The special non-member rate includes a year's membership in the OSBA and 10 issues of *The BeeLine*.

The **OSU Research Luncheon**, featuring a presentation by Dr. Burgett of OSU Dept of Entomology Honeybee Lab, is **\$25 per person**, with the profit from this luncheon going to the Research Fund of the OSU Honeybee Lab. Seating is limited.

The **OSBA Banquet and Auction** will feature a Almon and Baron of Beef buffet dinner by the famous Dooger's Seafood Grill of Cannon Beach and is only **\$25 per person**. Seating is limited.

The Conference will also include our annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. At this writing, we have nominations for re-election of George Hansen as President and Phyllis Shoemake as Secretary/Treasurer, and Charlie Mock nominated for Vice-president. Nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the election. You are invited to run for any office - we welcome your participation.

## President's Message

from George Hansen

By this time of the year beekeepers are supposed to be all done with their bee work and ready to shift their efforts to assessing this year's experience and preparing for next year's new beginning. I'm always in a frenzied panic trying to prop up marginal colonies and administering the last magic bullet that will save colonies that are otherwise doomed. I've been told that I'm pretty hard to live with anyway, but impossible to abide in October. By September one has come to the chilling realization that the bees are not going to make me anything more, money or honey. By October the dread thought sinks in that the clusters are not going to get any bigger no matter what hocus-pocus we do to them. In November, after a deep breath and a dose of reality, I see there is less money than I had even feared, and the clusters are in fact fewer and smaller than had been reckoned. As usual, however, with care, we will be back next year to go at it again.

Just so there is no mistake, the message I am trying to impart in this column is : COME TO THE OSBA WINTER CONFERENCE. THERE IS NO HIDING FROM THE CHANGES IN OUR INDUSTRY AND WE HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT TOGETHER.

Note: The tracheal mite samples that I am aware of are quite high again this year. We have every reason to believe this will be a year with heavier than usual winter losses.

Note: There is a growing need for bees to pollinate meadowfoam, tens of thousands of colonies within a few years. The growers association for this crop is very worried there are not enough bees available to meet their projected demand.

Note: The price of honey has become very volatile. It is currently making a rapid increase based on the perception of a shortage due to a lighter domestic crop in some areas and a restriction on the flow of Chinese honey. If the perception changes, the price will change, quickly.

Note: Pollination prices are at an all time high and demand for honey has pushed prices paid to producers up 30 to 40 percent from this time last year. One would think beekeepers would be flush. Have you looked at your net profits after depreciation figure?

Think about it.

Cont. on Page 2

# Oregon State Beekeepers Association

## 1995 Officers

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The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association and is published 10 times a year. Subscriptions are included with OSBA membership.

To join the OSBA, complete the membership application in this issue and send with payment to:  
Phyllis Shoemake, 1874 Winchester NW, Salem, OR 97304

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© 1995 Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Note: The Oregon State Beekeepers Association membership numbers are stagnant, way down from their highest levels. Even more critical, key members of the industry are conspicuously absent from our meetings and membership roles.

Come to the OSBA conference December 1 & 2 at Cannon Beach. Urge other beekeepers in your area to come too. Things are changing for all of us, lets get it together !

Note: The American Beekeeping Federation will be meeting in Portland in January. An opportunity, a burden, or no big deal? *Clearly, something must change.*

*George Hansen*

## Conference Agenda

**DECEMBER 1**

6:00 PM Social Get-together

**DECEMBER 2**

- 8:30 AM Registration Opens
- 9:00 AM Silent Auction Begins
- 9:00 AM Welcome and Opening Ceremonies - George Hansen
- 9:15 AM "African Bees In Texas - an Update" - Dr. Bill Wilson
- 10:00 AM Break - Coffee and Refreshments
- 10:15 AM "Honey Market News"
- 11:00 AM "Beekeeping in Oregon - Where are We Going?" - George Hansen
- 12:15 PM OSU Research Lunch - Dr. Michael Burgett "Africanization in Paraguay"
- 1:30 PM "Research in Tracheal and Varroa Mites - Latest Developments and Alternative Treatments" - Dr. Bill Wilson
- 2:30 PM Break - Coffee and Refreshments
- 2:45 PM OSBA Business Meeting and Elections
- 3:30 PM Silent Auction Ends
- 3:30 PM Overview of Winter Loss Survey, and Pollination Survey - Grower Organizations - How They Work and What They Can Do for an Industry" - Dr. Burgett
- 4:15 PM Professional Pollinators Group - An Idea Who's Time Has Come? - A Discussion - Moderators - Dr. Burgett and Ron Bennett
- 5:30PM Social
- 7:00PM OSBA Annual Banquet and Auction

## Advertising Rates

Business ads, per issue:

Business Card size	\$ 7.50
Quarter Page	20.00
Half Page	35.00
Full Page	100.00

Copy, art, and payment must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Contact the editor for any special requirements and mechanical information.

Classified ads, 30 words, per issue:

OSBA members	\$ 2.00
Non-members	3.00

## National Honey Board - Phoenix Meeting

by Joann Olstrom

**B**ob and I flew to Phoenix October 4 to attend the National Honey Board's fall meeting. We had meetings from 8 to 5 Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There was a reception Thursday evening and a Hayride cookout on Friday eve. Bob paid his own airfare and such; as Oregon's representative, my way was paid.

### How is the Honey Board Organized?

There is a Board member and an Alternate for each of 7 (Producer) Regions (Oregon is in Region #1); 2 positions for Importers, 2 for Handlers (packers) and 1 each co-op and public (non-bee person). A representative (like me) from each state helps to choose the persons to be Board and alternate members by recommending 4 persons for each position to the USDA secretary for final selection.

Although more women are state representatives and alternates, until Neil Miller resigned this June, the public Board Member had been the only female. Shirley Miller, alternate, took Neil's place. (Region #1 member is Randy Johnson of Idaho, alternate is Gene Brandi of CA.) This year some additional women were named to the Board list! Most of the hired Honey Board staff is female and the staff is the only paid part of NHB. All of the Board members, alternates and representatives are volunteers, with meals, room and transportation being paid to attend the meetings assigned to each person.

### Finances of National Honey Board -

You will recall that NHB (National Honey Board) money all comes from the assessments we pay on honey (one penny per pound) we produce and/or import. Persons who produce fewer than 6000 lb. are not required to (but may) pay-up, but must file for an exemption. This also means no free-bee recipes and no selling of honey out the back door. Any honey entering the consumer market is assessed, by federal law.

Plans to spend \$3.1 million in 1996 were made. Board members plan this, over the course of two or three quarterly meetings. Hired staff helps. Board members then direct the staff to carry out the plans. Sherry Jennings, Mary Hunan, Tina, Gretchen and others staff the Longmont office. In turn they may call on ad agencies, food technologists, etc.

Some of the highlights of the proposed budget for 1996 include 48% for consumer recipes, public relations

and honey promotions in magazines, newspapers, leaflets, etc.; 23% for food technology, product research/development for bakery and trade recipes (called formulas) for honey-sweetened bagels, beer, ice cream, jams, etc.; and MMP or export development which often receives matching Federal funding. There is even a fund for crisis management and of course, Longmont's staff salaries.

A detection plan to catch honey adulteration is being completed. Research into Botulism (microbiology), detection of antibiotics (fed to bees), lead residues, etc. and crisis management will consume about \$118,000.

Adulteration of honey, maple syrup and sorghum, selling 4 lb. of product marked as 5 lb., etc. is illegal. Crime doesn't pay in the end! American Beekeeping Federation will collect any samples of suspected honey and have them tested. Contact them if you suspect adulteration and they will tell you how to proceed.

### What the Honey Board Can NOT Do

NHB, under the "marketing order" (USDA rules) as structured, can NOT improve the price we get for our honey, guard us against imports or help us with bee disease problems. We have other groups to do those jobs: American Honey Producers Assoc., American Beekeeping Federation, OSBA, USDA Bee Research labs. NHB's job is to promote and increase the use of honey, to do crisis management (as in botulism and honey with infants, fluvalinate in honey scare, etc.). Period.

### What is NHB's job?

In addition to consumer recipes, NHB contracts with food technologists to do product research-formulas to use more honey in ice cream, breakfast cereals, beer, bread, etc. - for General Mills, your local bakery, restaurants. Honey may be an unfamiliar product; it doesn't act like sugar does in a recipe, etc. Just as you like to have a recipe for a new meat or vegetable, so does industry. "Industrial" users purchase more than half of the honey traded in this country.

Staff from NHB attends trade shows, School lunch conferences, American bakers, Fancy Food, Foreign Food shows, etc.

The Board has small 5 cent recipe folders we can buy for our customers, They have developed and printed a lovely cookbook available for resale.

*Cont. on Page 4*

Cont. from Page 3

NHB collects the penny from imported honey as well as ours. Part of this money is used to assess the foreign markets to see where any of us ready to tackle exporting might contact buyers. Also, the NHB is helping other countries - Canada, Lebanon, and Poland to setup their own honey boards and thus promote the use of their honey in their own countries: less for them to send to us!

In the USA, we only eat 1.7 pounds of honey per average person! In Saudi Arabia the average consumption 10.58 pounds. Oh, to be a beekeeper there! NHB hopes, through advertising, etc., to increase honey consumption in the US by 5% in 1996.

### NHB Advertising

NHB doesn't use TV (except like weather forecasters during Honey Month) because it is TOO EXPENSIVE. Magazines and papers are less costly, will often print for free and the Board's only cost is preparing the printed materials and photos. Printed materials lay around for re-use. Radio and TV are usually one-time and then gone.

The average honey buyer is a housewife, 25-49 year age group, education past high school, couple kids, above average income. She is the "target audience;" hence articles about honeys in *WOMAN'S DAY*, *McCALL's*, etc. NHB also work with other commodity groups-apples, chicken, peanuts, etc.

Gretchen, of the NHB has made some TV appearances on cooking and talk type shows, using honey in some recipes. Such shows are often on the look-out for "free" programs.

All of us can make use of material-some free, some for charge-made available from NHB. Most are well done and at a price we can afford because they deal in such quantities. We need to plan ahead, see how we can keep our customers happy and buying more honey. Yah, I'm as bad as the next person; we all are so busy just doing the bees, pouring the honey, slapping on labels and such that we do not take time to plan

next years strategy... Unless we have a bunch of employees to share the work!

Indirectly honey prices will be affected by NHB's promotion of honey. As consumption goes up, the supply lessens and price rises, supposedly, hopefully.

Individually none of us could afford to plop down \$6,000 to study botulism in honey. Could even Sue Bee afford the color photography, etc. in the new Cookbooks? How many of us could gather together a group of food editors, take them out to lunch and a bee yard, dress 'em all up in (new) bee suits, and do a bee day?

Would we have the necessary clout (and cash) to hire a university food technology group or an ad agency to do the kind of development and promos NHB is doing with our collective pennies? Sure some of us are photographers, some write, some talk, some do a great job of raising honey or selling it. And yeah, a penny a pound is a pretty healthy percent.

But we are all so busy doing our own corner of this whole business that we have little time and not always the expertise to do the Whole She-Bang. And, individually we may be too afraid or stingy or bull-headed to co-operate and share information - afraid some one else will get the jump on us. (I don't mean sharing trade secret recipes.)

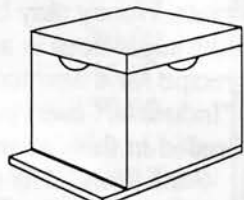
NHB can do the whole promo/research and development bit. That is their only job. They work together, with the Board members' direction, for the common goal - promotion and increased use of honey. They do the "generic" honey research and allow us to take those basics and put our individual slant, stamp, flavor to it. I hope you will plan to make use of some of NHB's work in your business this next year.

Oregon is was 19th in honey production in 1994 with 3,250,000 pounds.

I am to serve again next year and am eligible for 1 more 3-year term following that. Marjie Ehry was in this position before me and served a term as alternate Board member. I appreciate the trust you have shown in me by recommending me to this position.

Joann Olstrom

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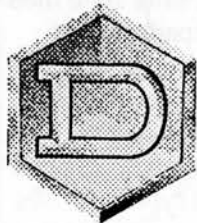
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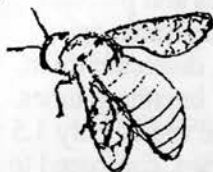
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## BEES USED TO PROTECT VALUABLES

From time immemorial bees have been used to protect valuables. In Kashmir, in India, there exists a particularly savage strain of *Apis dorsata*, which is the largest and most lethal of bees. Apparently colonies of this bee were frequently used by bandits to guard loot in mountain caves.

In the *London Times* of January 1953 an account is given of how smugglers on the river Hamble in Hampshire would conceal their contraband under empty skeps in a local apiary. A little honey was all that was necessary to attract sufficient bees to deter any customs officer from taking a closer inspection.

Probably bees have been used to safeguard valuables in this way throughout history. One curious discovery described in the *British Bee Journal* of February 1951 was the finding of the long-lost building plans of the Cologne Cathedral within a beehive. It is probable that they had been stored there during a period of uncertainty.



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## OSBA Auction

One of the major events of our Fall Conference is the Auction. This lively event is the OSBA's primary source of funds for our educational efforts and conference/meetings. The auction's success depends not only on the energetic participation of buyers, but on the generous support of both industry suppliers and beekeepers like you. If you have something (it doesn't have to be bee-related - gift certificates, household stuff, tools - whatever will raise money for the Fund) you can contribute to either the Silent or Banquet Oral Auction, please bring it with you to the Fall Conference. Thank You in advance.

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## From the Missouri State Beekeepers Association

# TREATING THE BEES' WHEEZE

*Natural products show promise for controlling  
tracheal and Varroa mites*

Virginia beekeepers Dennis and Neva Whetzel started noticing several years ago that their "golden angels" were losing their will to fly. The honey-producing angels emerged from their hives and walked around outside.

They weren't acting like the busy bees whose pollinating activities add an estimated \$15 billion to the value of U. S. food crops each year. And the work they do pollinating hay and seed crops for livestock consumption makes possible meat and dairy industries worth another \$35 billion. All in all, honey bees contribute to about one third of the total value of the U. S. food supply.

Small wonder that in her travels, a typical honey bee wears out her wings after 20 days-and 500 miles-of foraging for nectar and pollen.

But the Whetzels' bees, like many others across the country, have been slowed by tracheal and Varroa mites. Tracheal mites work their way into a bee's breathing tubes, making it hard for the bee to breathe-much less to fly.

Nor is it easy for her to fly when the blood-sucking Varroa mite has sapped her strength. In 1992, two years after the tracheal mites appeared, the Whetzels found that Varroa mites had weakened and killed many of their bees. These mites have become an increasing problem across the country since the mid-1980's.

To combat Varroa, the Whetzels and other beekeepers put strips containing fluvalinate, a synthetic pyrethroid, inside their colonies. But at \$3 to \$6 per hive, the strips are an added expense in a slim-profit business. Another limitation: the strips can only be used when bees aren't collecting nectar and pollen, to ensure that fluvalinate residues don't wind up in honey. And there are reports from Europe that Varroa mites have become resistant to fluvalinate-meaning its long-term effectiveness could be limited.

Beekeepers use menthol against tracheal mites. But that, too, adds to costs and is labor intensive.

Mites are the biggest threat to domestic honey bees, killing thousands of colonies each year. The Whetzels and other beekeepers who are struggling with the

mites are looking for a less expensive, safer mite medicine to give their bees. Now, U. S. Department of Agriculture scientist Nick Calderone may be able to fill that prescription.

Calderone, an entomologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, is testing natural plant extracts that, in lab studies, killed both types of mites without harming honey bees. Also, the extracts were effective against Varroa in small scale field tests.

Based at the agency's Bee Research lab in Beltsville, Maryland, Calderone is conducting large-scale field studies in four states to see how well the extracts fare at commercial apiaries.

Tests are under way at Whetzel's Golden Angels Apiary near Harrisonburg, Virginia; Haven Keller's apiary in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania; in Texas in cooperation with ARS entomologist William Wilson at Weslaco; and in Minnesota in cooperation with entomologist Marla Spivak at the University of Minnesota.

USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program helped fund the research.

Against Varroa, Calderone used a blend of natural plant oils-primarily thymos and eucalyptus oil. The oils are derived from herbs and other plants and kill fungi, bacteria, and other organisms, as well as mites.

And a "major advantage of these plant oils is that they have low mammalian toxicity," Calderone says.

Calderone and ARS technician Rick Turcotte mixed the plant extracts and soaked them into a green, foam brick that florists use for flower arrangements. Then they put the absorptive bricks into hives for several weeks in late fall, after bees had finished making honey. The mixture killed 98 percent of Varroa mites and was as effective as the fluvalinate strips.

For tracheal mites, the researchers mixed oils from peanuts, sunflowers, rapeseed, or soybeans in sugar patties and placed them in 71 colonies at the Pennsylvania apiary. After three months, they removed bees, dissected them, and counted tracheal mites in the bees' breathing tubes.

The result: only 1.5 to 2.5 percent of the bees were infected, compared to nearly 10 percent of those in

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untreated colonies.

Calderone says he still has to perfect a way to apply the compounds with as little labor as possible and would have to gain regulatory approval from the Environmental Protection Agency to use the compounds to control honey bee mites. Ideally, he hopes to find a mixture of compounds that would kill both mites.

"We still have a way to go before we have a commercial product, but we're encouraged," Calderone says. "These compounds exhibit a significant potential for controlling mites and may also be effective against some honey bee diseases." by Sean Adams, ARS.



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## More Recipes from the State Fair Honey Contest

Here are the 3rd place and Judges' Choice Winners. I don't know how the judges could come up with a "winner" from all of this entries, they all are "first place" in my book.

### Raspberry Honey Malt Dressing

Karl Magnuson, Salem, OR

- ¼ cup Honey
- 1 tsp Mustard powder
- ¼ cup Raspberry vinegar
- 1 Tlbs Lime aid concentrate
- ½ tsp Celery seed
- ½ tsp Thyme
- ½ tsp Chili powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ tsp Rosemary
- 1 tsp Garlic (roasted)
- ½ cup ZIMA GOLD (or lite beer)
- ½ cup Olive oil (extra virgin)

In a blender combine all except the oil and blend for 2 minutes then add the oil and blend for one minute more. This dressing can be served immediately but is best after 36 hours or more in the refrigerator. SHAKE WELL before serving at room temperature. Best use on a salad with Roast Pork or Beef.

### Honey's Favorite Dressing

Ashlene Drake, Salem, OR

- ¾ cup Miracle Whip
- 2 Tlbs Grey Poupon Dijon Mustard
- 3 Tlbs Hanna's Honey
- ½ tsp Dill Weed
- 2 Tlbs Milk
- 2 Tlbs Water

Mix together all ingredients and blend well until smooth and completely mixed. This is sweet, but tart and is especially good with vegetables. Good with pastas or chicken salad. Almost anything - but fruit. Good on sandwiches as a spread or salads, even potato salad. P.S. I haven't tried it with fruit, but it could be interesting.



From the Coos County  
Beekeepers  
**1995 HONEY PRO-  
DUCTION UPDATE**

by Gordon Starr, President, Coos County  
Beekeepers' Association

In 1995 the blackberry honey flow hit hard on June 28th and stopped cold on July 26th. Honey produced in the Coquille Valley from July 2nd to July 26th was virtually pure blackberry, almost water clear with a slight yellow cast. I harvested 813 pounds of pure blackberry honey in that time period, out of a total of 1206 pounds for the season from six hives. Two of my hives, #2 and #3, sitting side-by-side, produced 330 and 315 pounds, respectively. That is a world record! In the 1890's A.I. Root set the record of one (1) hive production of 300 pounds, and no one broke that record until Ormand Aebi's #4 hive in 1974. At the June 16th CCBA meeting I told George Hansen, OSBA President, that I could not expect to break Ormand Aebi's record of 404 pounds, but that I was going to try-to break the record for averaged production from multiple hives. AND I DID IT!

At the August 13, 1995 OSBA picnic at Bastendorff Beach Park, Dr. Mike Burgett said he had been an entomologist for many years and had heard a lot of tall tales, but I was the biggest liar he ever saw or heard for even suggesting I could produce pure blackberry honey, and he wanted to see a photo of the sugar syrup truck backed up to my hives. He had earlier asked me for a free bottle of my blackberry honey, then waved it around while asking me to stand before the group, so that my shame could be better appreciated by the multitudes. "Me thinks he doth protest too much."<sup>2</sup>

In my shop, right now, I have well over a quarter-ton of pure blackberry honey-the proof it can be done. Those CCBA members who attended the July 21st meeting saw a video of me working hives #2 and #3, and saw with their own eyes me removing many of the 24 supers filled by those hives this year. And that broke the all-time world record for multiple hives! On honey production, Ormand Aebi and I have the credentials.

"Brutus makes mine greater than they are. I am no orator as Brutus is... I only speak right on."

<sup>2</sup> *Veni, Vidi, Vici.*

<sup>2</sup> Shakespeare



## 1996 BEE MASTERS SHORT COURSE

The 1996 Bee Masters Course will be offered February 19 - 24 at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, just outside the scenic city of Vancouver.

Bee Masters is a week-long, intensive course in advanced beekeeping that has been held every second year for 44 years. The course is offered jointly by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Simon Fraser University, and includes topics such as seasonal management, nutrition, queen rearing, pollination, diseases, mites, Africanized bees, pesticides, marketing, hive products (honey, pollen, propolis, royal jelly, wax, etc.), and much, much more. The course combines illustrated lectures, laboratory periods, social events, lots of discussion, and an optional final examination. Participants are expected to have previously kept bees and to have some knowledge about bees and beekeeping; hobbyists, side-liners, and commercial beekeepers are welcome, and all will benefit from and enjoy this course.

Lecturers for the 1996 course include Rob Currie, Cynthia Scott-Dupree, Maryann Frazier, Mark Winston, Paul van Westendorp, Doug McCutcheon, and many others. For further program and registration information:

CONTACT: Athena Roussinos (604) 291-3649 or Penny Southby (604) 291-3854 Conference Services, The Halpern Centre Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. CANADA V5A 1S6 FAX (604) 291-3420

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## More on the Russian Mite-Resistant Bee

by Ron Bennett

Last month in *The Bee Line*, I reported on a press release from the USDA ARS on the possibility of a *Varroa*-resistant bee in Eastern Russia. After several rounds of telephone tag, I finally connected with the source quoted in the release, Dr. Tom Rinderer at the USDA Honeybee Lab in Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Rinderer was kind enough to take time from his busy schedule to chat further on the subject of a mite-resistant bee in the future.

His work started from a suggestion by our own Dr. Burgett of OSU that if there is a resistant bee, it would most likely be found where *Apis Mellifera* has had the longest contact with *Varroa* mites. Dr. Rinderer noted that this paralleled the work they were doing with pesticide-resistant flies - that they had a shorter route by collecting the few live flies from pesticide-treated areas than starting with average flies and trying to breed a resistant fly. Let Mother Nature do all the ground work, so to speak.

The *Varroa* mite transferred to *Apis Mellifera* when Russia had its "Wild East" period in the 1870-1890s. Their history of eastern migration paralleled our own western movement, and with the migrating farmers came their honeybees.

At first contact with *Varroa* (first described in 1904), Russian beekeepers lost lots of hives, but over time, the bees seemed to develop a "resis-

## Calendar of Events

Nov.	13-17	California State Beekeepers Convention
Dec.	1-2	OSBA Fall/Winter Convention
Jan.	16-21	American Beekeeping Federation Convention, Portland OR
Feb.	19-24	Bee Masters Course, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., Canada
May	11	OSBA Spring Field Day, TBA
August	3-4	OSBA Summer Picnic and Meeting, Lake Billy Chinook
August	5-9	Western Apicultural Society, Hawaii
Nov.	29-30	OSBA Fall Conference

tance" to mites. The story of the movement of the mites West in the 1950s is well known, and the Russian government (they must have "straight-thinking" bureaucrats like us as well) decided to deal with the mite problem by breeding Western bees with these "resistant" bees in Eastern Russian, most likely diluting the "resistant" gene pool.

But even still, the honeybee of the Primorsky region does show a "tolerance" to *Varroa* (see the article in this month's American Bee Journal) and does hold promise (five to six years in the future if all goes well).

Dr. Rinderer said that the Russians did not want any US bees imported to their area for testing, "because our bees are too aggressive". Seems that this Russian bee is very gentle.

The Primorsky region is at the 43-48° latitude and has winters that get down to -40°F - burr! But, the region is noted for its very large honey crop (200+ Lbs. per hive!), primarily from a type of Linden tree, the *Tilia*.

Dr. Rinderer said, "How could anyone not make a great honey crop from a tree that seems to have five acres of blossom and is almost dripping nectar".

Well, this all sounds most promising and the USDA-ARS is moving forward with its research. But, it will be several years before the first of these bees reach th U.S. for initial testing and four to fives years after that before they could be released to breeders.

Hum, maybe the Russian bee might be the source of a *Varroa*-tolerant bee sometime in the future, but by my way of thinking, maybe what we need to be doing now is planting a few thousand acres of *Tilia*!

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## From the Editor's Desk

One year and ten issues later, I have a chance to reflect back on my first year as editor for *The Bee Line*. I can say with all my heart that it has been a great year and a tremendous pleasure (and challenge) to put together this publication each month. After trekking over to the Salem Post Office Bulk Mail Center each month, I look at the blank templet for the next issue and wonder how am I ever going to fill all that blank space, let alone make it half way interesting to you. And, knock on wood, come the time to put the publication to bed for printing, I look at it and wonder how I'm going to make it all fit!

All the members of the Executive Board have worked hard to clean up the mailing list, track down all of you who have moved, fix the typos in your names and addresses. If we still haven't got it right, PLEASE let us know. I would like to add something like "If you're not getting your issues ... ", but if you weren't getting the issues, how would you be reading this?

We will try to make this publication even more useful

to you in the future. Starting with the next issue, we will start a monthly (10 times a year that is) column on basic beekeeping. The column will focus on understanding how honeybees perceive the world THEY live in, which is entirely different than the world we perceive. We will also try to have a broader range of articles on how to and the WHYs of beekeeping and updates on what is happening in pollination and honey production and pricing.

And, if this commercial pollinator group gets together, we will try to have regular input from them as well. *The Bee Line* is your publication and its sole purpose is to serve as a vehicle for the interchange of ideas of interest to Northwest Beekeepers. If you have any ideas, suggestions, articles you'd like to write or would like help writing, please let us know and we will do all that we can to accommodate you and your input.

See you in Cannon Beach, Ron Bennett

PS Remember to support your local club.

## LOOK AT YOUR ADDRESS LABEL

Technology has finally caught up with our mailing list. You will note that there is a code or more likely a date after your last name. This is the date of expiration of your membership. We will be tightening up on past due membership dues starting next month. You will stop receiving the *BeeLine* and your membership will be inactive 60 past the due date.

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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 the OSBA. OSBA Membership is \$15 per person and includes a vote in all OSBA elections, discounts on other bee-related publications, 10 issues of *The Bee Line*, and more. And, if you are already a member of a local group, your group will receive \$1.00 from your OSBA dues. Foreign membership is \$23.

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Cont. on Page 2

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