
THE BEE LINE



The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 23, Number 3

April, 1998

Why Keep Records?

by Dr. Lynn Royce

As we look at the history of the relationship between humans and honey bees we see that certain events had a long-lasting effect on the relationship. One that comes to mind is the discovery of the movable frame hive in the mid-1800s. Another event that changed beekeeping in Oregon was the advent of parasitic mites: tracheal mites and brood or Varroa mites in the 1980s. This last event has forced us to keep closer track of our bees and treat them for mites.

Keeping track of what we do to our honey bee colonies has become very important. Mite treatments need to be put into colonies and left in for six to eight weeks and then removed. In our busy lives if we do not write down specific events they may be forgotten or shifted in our minds to other times. Because it is important to be exact with mite treatments it is best to record placement in the colony and removal. This is a start to keeping records; why not take another step? What advantages would there be to recording all our colony care?

Record keeping does have advantages. It helps us plan ahead. It reminds us of what needs to be done. It should make us more aware of our bees and their needs, so that we become better

beekeepers. It allows us to see patterns as they develop. For example, one may notice that records of date, temperature, wind, sunshine and flower bloom can help us predict certain other events, such as when trailing blackberries bloom in Western Oregon, weather is warm and sunny enough to allow consistent flight of male honey bees and thus mating can occur. Predictions like this rely on several years of records. It provides baseline information on which we can note change.

Useful records to keep will obviously include medication dates but dates of many other activities can be useful: requeening, reversing, feeding, oil patty replacement, swarms issued or suspected, queen cell removal, colony lost, bee pasture or possible yard locations, bloom time of flowers including first bloom and peak bloom, note neighbor's crops, irritation, spraying and irrigation; also good to note are road conditions to and into crops you pollinate and winter yards (dates these were passable, etc.), and floods. You might want to note events next to crops you pollinate: blackberry bloom time, sprays, etc.

Records like these will help you fill out the survey forms Dr. Burgett sends you and they will be more accurate. This will give the final report a higher level of accuracy and meaning. Records can be very helpful as research starting points. So use a good notebook or calendar and keep good records.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association and is published ten 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

Editorial Offices: Send news, announcements, letters, comments and advertising to:

Diane Varner, Editor
PO Box 123 Yamhill, OR 97148-0123
503-662-4559

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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

President's Notes

by Torey Johnson

What a week we had in mid-March, with that great weather. All questions about why one keeps bees get answered on days like those. This is my favorite time of year. Hard work is easier on sunny days and it's hard to get the bees upset.

Looking to the future: what's up on the inside the OSBA? Here's a preview:

A committee is hard at work to put information together to assist and help direct people with funding research projects.

Bee Day is coming up April 25th (see enclosed flyer). This is one of the best events in the Northwest. It's fun and educational for novice to veteran beekeepers. Hope to see you there!

Bart Snyder has reserved the Best Western in Seaside for the Fall Convention on November 12-14 (Thursday-Saturday). We will have more about the program in coming issues.

In Remembrance

Tom Hennessey passed away on March 15th. Tom was a great friend of mine personally and of many people in the bee business. He extracted honey for me for three years and built equipment for Ruhl Bee Supply until 1996.

Tom loved his wife, his bees and his woodworking. I will miss him dearly. Thank you for your friendship, Tom.

Oregon State Beekeepers
Torey Johnson, President

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Oregon Revised Statutes: Chapter 602

by Ray Varner

The 1997 Edition of the Oregon Revised Statutes is a very pared down version of earlier editions. For example, the 1981 version the statutes ran over six pages and included provisions for inspection of apiaries, limitations on moving diseased bees, laboratory tests for American Foulbrood, importation of bees, quarantine of bees, establishing standards of colony strength, issuance of brand or serial number certificate, transfer of ownership of apiary equipment, and seizure of apiary property in order to control and eradicate diseases. All the above listed statutes have been repealed and do not appear in current law.

The current ORS is only one and one-half pages long, and is reprinted below in its entirety.

Chapter 602 1997 Edition Bees

602.010 Definitions. As used in this chapter, the term:

(1) "Apiary" and "apiary property" includes bees, honey, beeswax, bee comb, hives, frames and other equipment, appliances and material used in connection with an apiary.

(2) "Appliances" means any implement or device used in the manipulating of bees or their brood or hives, which may be used in any apiary.

(3) "Bees" means honey-producing insects of the genus *Apis* and includes the adults, eggs, larvae, pupae or other immature stages thereof, together with such materials as are deposited into the hives by their adults, except honey and beeswax in rendered forms.

(4) "Colony" or "colony of bees" refers to any hive occupied by bees.

(5) "Department" means the State Department of Agriculture.

(6) "Diseases" means pests, disease or any condition affecting bees or their brood.

(7) "Hive" means any receptacle or container made or prepared for use by bees, or box or similar container taken possession of by bees.

(8) "Location" means the premises upon which an apiary is located.

(9) "Person" includes any individual, partnership, association or corporation, but does not include any common carrier when engaged in the business of transporting bees, hives, appliances, bee cages or other commodities which are the subject of the chapter, in the regular course of business.

602.020 Chief Apiary Inspector. The State Department of Agriculture is authorized to appoint a Chief Apiary Inspector and such deputy apiary inspectors as may be necessary to conduct service work requested by the apiary industry. The administration of the program shall be under the direction and control of the Director of Agriculture. The apiary industry shall pay service fees in amounts established by the department by rule to cover all expenses incurred in the conduct of the program.

602.090 Registration of bee colonies; fees.

(1) Every person who owns or is in charge of five or more colonies of bees located within this state, shall cause the colonies to be registered with the State Department of Agriculture as in this section provided.

(2) Application for registration shall be made on a form furnished by the department. The registration shall cover each colony of bees owned by the applicant, and shall give the locations of such colonies and the name, address and telephone number of the person in charge if the person in charge is not the owner. The registration shall be made before June 1 of each year for all colonies. Each registrant shall furnish as address to which any notice required by this

(cont. on page 4)

(cont. from page 3)

chapter to be given may be sent, and shall agree that any notice sent by the department to such address shall be deemed to be notice in fact.

(3) The application for registration shall be accompanied by a fee not to exceed \$10. For each registration after July 1, the fee shall not exceed \$20. The department, by rule, shall establish the fees subject to be the maximum limits prescribed in this subsection.

(4) When the ownership of bees which have been subject to the charge provided in this section is changed, the department shall transfer the registration to the new owner without charges. However, if the bees have not been previously registered, the new owner shall pay the registration fee without penalty.

(5) The department shall maintain records of registered beekeepers and the number of colonies registered.

602.180 Disposition of fees. The State Department of Agriculture shall deposit all fees paid to it under this chapter into the Department of Agriculture Service Fund. Such fees are continuously appropriated to the department for the purpose of administering and enforcing this chapter, including release and publication of information and material to better acquaint the bee industry with the law and regulations promulgated thereunder.

602.190 Designation of diseases; eradication and control programs; regulation of commercial use of diseased wax. In order to prevent and control apiary diseases, the State Department of Agriculture:

- (1) May designate diseases and conditions which threaten the honey bee population in this state.
- (2) May establish by rule treatment programs designed to eradicate or control the disease or condition.
- (3) May establish rules regulating commercial facilities which render diseased wax.

602.990 Penalties. Violation of any of the provisions of ORS 602.090 or 602.190, or any rule adopted pursuant thereto, is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, or both.

How to Register Bee Colonies

According to ORS 602.090, beekeepers with five or more colonies must register with the Department of Agriculture. The form required is License Type 54 and can be obtained by calling (503) 986-4620. The form is one page long and self-explanatory. Once completed, the form must be sent with a check in the amount of \$10 (the fee doubles to \$20 if late - after July 1) to:

Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-0110

In short order you will receive a license from the Department of Agriculture

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

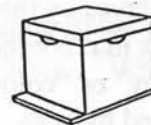
Apr. 13, 20 & 27 Willamette Valley
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18 Deadline for *The Bee Line*
articles

25 OSBA Annual Bee Day

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Open Letter to Beekeepers: Proper Use of Apistan Urged

Apistan strips have been successfully used by beekeepers to control Varroa mites for the last nine years. Apistan is the only federally registered product for use in beehives for the control of Varroa jacobsoni. During the past six months, however, rumors have circulated throughout the industry concerning problems with the strips.

We would like to provide you with the most up-to-date information on this situation. The concern is a lack of efficacy associated with the strips in limited areas of Florida, South Dakota and Pennsylvania. In some cases, the strips failed to provide the control that beekeepers have been familiar with and come to expect from Apistan.

Zoecon personnel began investigating following several reports of control failures. Once the lot numbers and strips were provided, a list was compiled to determine if a common lot number or batch was involved. Strips provided were chemically tested to determine levels of fluvalinate and inert ingredients. Batch records of each reported lot were reviewed for inconsistencies.

After reviewing the lot numbers, batch records, release rates and chemical analysis, there were no production problems with any of the strips from the reported lot numbers. There was no correlation to lot number in any of the reported failures. Lot numbers reported came back from production as far back as 1995 and as recently as March of 1997.

During the course of the investigation, independent of Zoecon, the USDA (Weslaco, Texas) began investigation of reported failures in South Dakota. Apistan strips failed to provide satisfactory control in their studies. Further studies in certain areas of Florida had similar findings. In still other investigations, the USDA had taken strips that failed to work in Florida to

parts of Texas, Mexico and Guatemala. In these studies, the exact same strips provided control of mite populations.

There does appear to be a common link between failures in South Dakota and Pennsylvania. It appears these hives spent some time in Florida either overwintering or as pollinators shipped out of Florida. This commonality indicates the possibility that there is a low-level tolerance to fluvalinate associated with these limited areas of Florida. We do not know what the level of tolerance is at this time.

For the majority of beekeepers, Apistan is and will continue to be an effective product for the control of Varroa mites. Zoecon is working intensively in conjunction with the USDA to devise alternate strategies and alternate control measures to assure Varroa-free colonies and prevent the spread of tolerant mites. In an effort to reduce the incidence of fluvalinate-tolerant mites, we urge beekeepers to use only EPA-registered products and follow the label directions.

The use of any unregistered product threatens a beekeeper's livelihood. For instance, a pattern of illegal use of Mavrik in Italy caused a resistance problem and resulted in the ceasing of Apistan sales in that country which deprived them of an important tool. The use of any unregistered product also exposes the beekeeper to unnecessary liability.

Until we know more about this situation, we urge beekeepers to monitor their hives closely for the presence of Varroa. Again, we are working to find alternatives to Apistan that can be used in rotational practices. Rotational practices will not only prolong the life of Apistan, but provide beekeepers the confidence and control they have come to expect from Zoecon Apiary products.

Wellmark International, Inc.
-Greg Braithwaite, Ntl. Sales Mgr.
-Oscar Coindreau, Ntl. Sales Rep.
-Doug Van Gundy, Specialty
Product Support Mgr.

Northwest Beekeeping

April - Fruit tree bloom continues through April.

- Don't let colony stores get below 15 lbs. or three full frames of honey.
- Feed the colonies as in March: donating colonies, pollen trap colonies, cell building colonies. Do not feed colonies chosen for honey production.
- Remove entrance reducers.
- In colonies selected for honey: (A) discontinue Terramycin in pollen supplements, (B) don't give supplemental feedings, (C) start moving sealed frames of honey to top supers.
- Keep on the lookout for American or European foulbrood and nosema. Get brood supers ready to install package bees that you might have ordered. Reserve boxes/frames for catching swarms.
- Give single story colonies that are getting full of bees a second box. Give two story colonies a third brood box. Queen supercedure and swarming tendency; examine frames often.
- Continue to equalize brood and stores.
- Remove poor comb and replace with good comb. Transfer bees from poor hives into new or reconditioned ones.
- Reverse the hive bodies on two story colonies in which the queen is only laying in the upper story.
- Exchange the position of overly strong colonies with weaker ones, to give weaker ones more field bees and discourage stronger colonies from swarming.

Apple blossom time: put a queen excluder on the colonies with bees and brood in both stores, and add a full depth super of drawn comb for possible honey flow. Check one week later; see if bees are above the excluder. If not, take it off to put it on later.

Thank you to Portland Beekeeper Association members Stephanie Barnes, David Gage, Rosemary Marshall, Ernie McCormack and Bill Ruhl, for Almanac review and suggestions, 1996.

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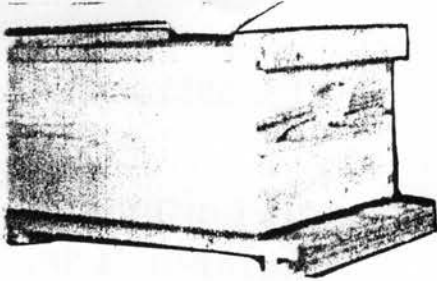
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To be held at: Foothills Honey 30576 Oswalt Rd
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Registration is limited to 150
To pre-registration call: Ruhl Bee Supply @ 503-256-4231
On -Site registration: 9:30 am to 10:15 am.
Cost: No charge to OSBA members, family & Children are free.
Donations will be accepted to defray expenses and support
area beekeeping activities.

THINGS TO BRING: Veil Smoker Gloves
 Beesuit Hive tool

Also bring honey samples.
Lunch: Bring your own or there is the Colton Market one mile away.

Supporting Bee Clubs: Oregon State Beekeepers, Willamette Valley,
Portland Beekeepers, & Tualatin Valley Beekeepers.

Membership information for the groups will be available at this
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Directions: From Oregon City, take Hwy 213 through Mulino
to Union Mills Rd. Turn Left & continue 8 miles to Oswalt Rd. Take
a right on Oswalt & go 1/4 mile. Follow the Bee Day Signs.

Evaluating Honey Bee Colonies for Pollination

Excerpted from a Pacific Northwest Extension Publication dated March, 1984, with current recommendations regarding colony strength.

Colony Size and Efficiency

You can probably appreciate that only the older workers in a colony serve as foragers. As a colony grows in worker populations, the proportion of bees old enough for foraging increases. As a general rule, smaller colonies send out a smaller percentage of bees as foragers. On the other hand, larger colonies send out not only more bees but also a higher proportion of the population as foragers.

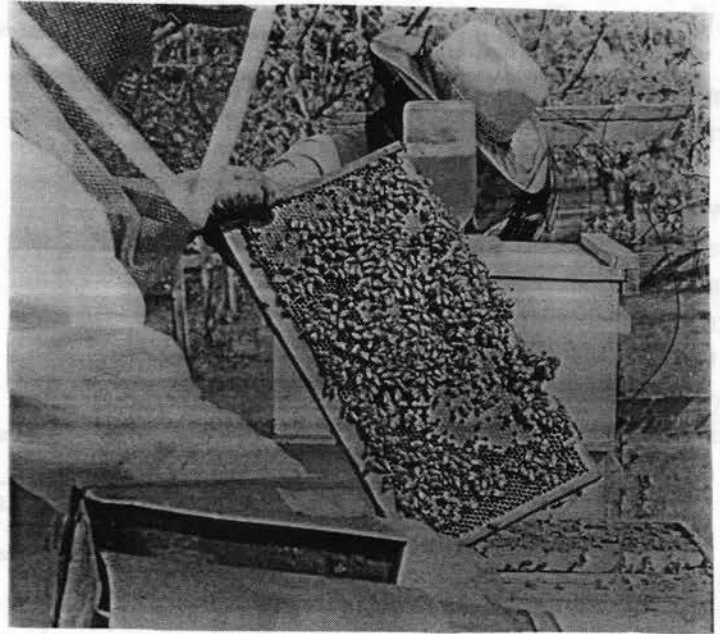
The greater value of larger colonies for pollination can be illustrated by the amount of honey produced by colonies of different populations. The ability of a colony to store surplus honey is a direct result of the number of bees foraging and the amount of forage available. It is the foragers that pollinate the flowers they visit. Research has brought us these figures:

- One colony of 30,000 bees produces 1.5 times as much honey as the sum of *two* colonies of 15,000 bees each.
- One colony of 45,000 bees produces 1.5 times as much honey as *three* colonies with 15,000 bees each.
- One colony of 60,000 bees produces 1.5 times as much honey as *four* colonies with 15,000 bees each.

The strength of the colonies a grower rents will be influenced by several factors:

1. *The time of year.* The earlier a crop blooms in the season, the greater the likelihood that the colonies will not be as large as the same colonies rented later in the season to pollinate another crop.

2. *Management of the colonies.* Beekeepers can speed up or slow down the natural growth of their hives with a variety of techniques. Colonies provided with supplemental food such as sugar



syrup and/or pollen supplement early in the season will be stimulated to grow more rapidly.

3. *Weight and size.* For commercial beekeepers, practical considerations (such as the number of hives they can haul on a truck) are of prime importance. Commercial beekeepers are migratory in nature, and the seasonal movement of colonies often covers thousands of miles. The ease with which beekeepers can load colonies on and off their trucks and place them in fields and orchards often dictates the maximum size of the colonies they rent.

Colony-strength regulations (*Note: The following are recommendations made by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture and a guideline for both beekeepers and growers.*)

The recommendations are designed to assure growers that colonies they rent will meet minimum biological standards. In summary, a colony should be free of disease, have a healthy queen who is actively laying eggs, have enough adult bees to cover ten deep combs (approx. 24,000 bees), have between four and six deep combs well filled with brood in various stages of development, and be housed in two supers. Such a colony should provide an active foraging population of between 12,000 and 16,000 bees.

(cont. on page 8)

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Recommendations for renting bees: use of a contract

For many growers and beekeepers, the use of a written pollination contract has not been necessary. However, a written contract is often advisable for beekeepers who service a new grower. Whatever the situation, both grower and beekeeper need to understand various aspects of the rental. These include-but are not limited to-the following points:

1. *Number of colonies* to be provided.
2. *Guaranteed colony strength.*
3. *Timing* of colony movement into and out of the crop.
4. *Placement* or distribution of the colonies within the crop.
5. *Colony rental fee* and *schedule of payment.*
6. *Right of entry* to the beekeeper for colony maintenance.
7. *Advance notice* to the beekeeper if any pesticide that is toxic to bees will be applied while the colonies are in the crop.

Growers need to appreciate the value of a strong colony of honey bees in maximizing crop yields. Consider the rental of honey bees *not* as a guarantee of crop success, but rather as a guarantee against crop failure.

A working partnership between a grower and a beekeeper best assures the maximum use of honey bees as pollinators.

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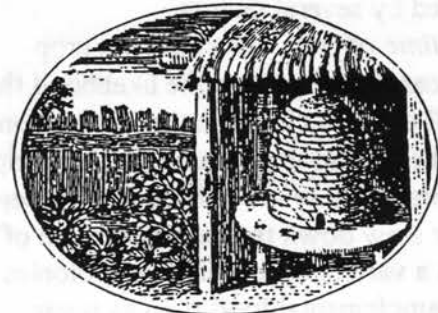
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Bee Musings

by Diane Varner

As promised, I began my visits to regional clubs in March by visiting the Portland Beekeepers and the Tualatin Valley Beekeepers. The first thing I noticed about the clubs is how friendly everyone is and how glad they are to have you visit. Both clubs encourage members to share information - how the bees are doing, hive strength and survival, upcoming plans to split hives, etc. The sharing of personal experiences is one of the best ways to learn and to encourage dialogue. These clubs do take beekeeping seriously - both had good presentations: Portland worked out the details of Bee Day (a lot of work goes into this event!), and Tualatin Valley had a demonstration on hiving bees.

Another thing I noticed about both clubs is that they take snack time seriously, and the snacks include generous amounts of honey. The Portland Beekeepers had - among other things - a wonderful Honey Cheesecake, and the Tualatin Valley Beekeepers featured a terrific Carrot Cake and delicious Honey Cookies. Dan Hiscoe allowed me

to share his wife Lorraine's recipe for Carrot Cake. I plan to have it for Easter.

CARROT CAKE

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1/2 c. oil | 1 t. baking powder |
| 1/2 c. honey | 1 t. baking soda |
| 1/4 c. sugar | 1 t. cinnamon |
| 2 eggs (use only 1 yolk) | 1 1/2 c. grated carrots |
| 1 1/4 c. flour | 1/2 c. nuts (optional) |

Blend oil, honey and sugar in bowl. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and cinnamon in small bowl; set aside. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture alternately with carrots, beginning and ending with dry ingredients. Add nuts if desired. Turn batter into two 8" square pans. Bake at 350° for 40-45 min. or until toothpick comes out clean.

Frost with Cream Cheese Frosting:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 4 oz. cream cheese | 1 t. vanilla |
| 2 T. margarine | 1/2 box pwd. sugar |
- Beat together cream cheese, margarine and vanilla. Add sugar until desired consistency.

Enjoy!



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Jim Cramer
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
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Salem, OR 97310-0110
503-986-4620

REGIONAL BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS

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V.President: Doug Soules
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Sec./Treas.: Toni Wyatt-Kirkeby

Klamath County

Meeting dates and sites vary
Call officers:
Pres.: Ken Crow 541-882-1893
VP: Chet Hamaker 541-882-2404

Lane County

Meets 7:30 pm second Tuesday
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1155 Chambers St., Eugene
Pres: Vern Wilson 541-343-2996
V. P.: Bill King 541-746-3839
Treasurer: Ed Elder 541-998-3199

Portland Area

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18238 S. Fischers Mill Rd., Oregon
City

Pres: Jim Allison 503-663-1058
VP.: Bill Kruger 503-266-7249
Sec.: Paul Hardzinski 503-631-
3927

Treas.: Christian DeHaze 503-266-
3356

Southern Oregon

Meets 7:30 pm first Monday
S.O. Research & Extension Center
569 Hanley Rd., Central Point
President: Stan Kee 541-664-3238
VP: John Campbell 541-664-4867
Sec.: George Steffensen 541-474-
4305

Tillamook County

Meets 7 pm first Thursday
Fish & Wildlife Bldg.
4909 Third Street, Tillamook
President: Bob Allen 541-322-3819
VP: Doug Taylor 541-842-4245
Sec./Treas.: Wayne Aubel

Tualatin Valley

Meets 7:30 pm first Tuesday
OSU Extension Office, 18640 SW
Walker Rd., Beaverton
Pres.: Sean Killean 503-646-1275
V P: Roy McMillan 503-628-0277
Sec.: Jerry Schwanke 503-357-9284
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Willamette Valley

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Monday
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Treas: Fritz Skirvin 503-581-9372

Swarm Capture List Update

The State Dept. of Agriculture would like to update their list of beekeepers willing to take calls on capturing swarms. If you would like to be on their list, call 503-986-4620.

Check Your Address Label

In order to stay within our operating budget while providing the best publication possible, expiration dates on mailing labels will be monitored and *The Bee Line* cannot be mailed to memberships 60 days past the date code. As an additional service, a membership and publications form will be printed each month. Note additional savings are available when ordering magazines through OSBA.



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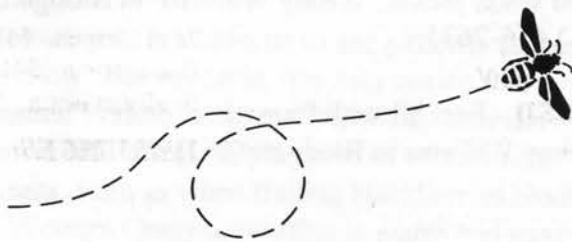
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Membership in the Oregon State Beekeepers Association is open to anyone who has an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. OSBA membership is \$15 per person and includes a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on other bee related publications, ten issues of *The Bee Line*, and more. Foreign membership is \$23.

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Classified advertising rates per issue: 30 words, per issue: OSBA members, \$2.00, non-members \$3.00. Copy and payment must be received by editor no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication.

FOR SALE: Steel 55-gallon open head drums, \$6.00 each. Free catalog, includes beekeeping equipment, candle and soap making supplies. Contact Glorybee, 1-800-GLORYBE (456-7923) or in Eugene, 689-0913.

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