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# THE BEE LINE



*The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association*

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Volume 24, Number 10

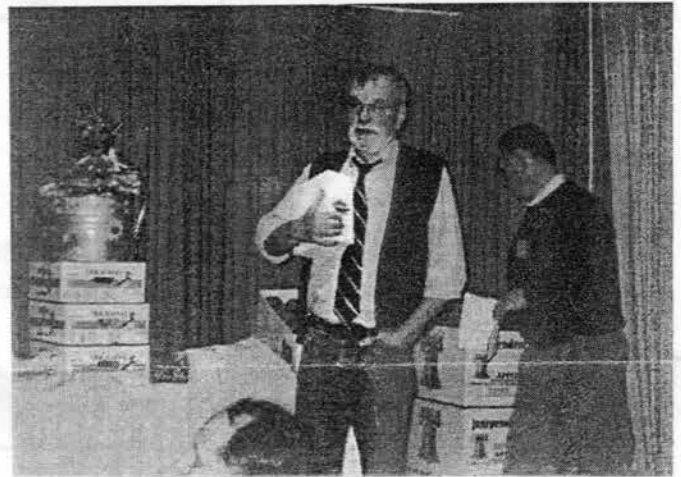
November/December 1999

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## Northwest Corner Conference Highlights



*Dr. Hachiro Shimanuki answers questions from audience members*



*Dr. Mike Burgett from OSU and George Hansen get the auction going Friday night...*



*Fletcher Miller (right) came all the way from Alaska and brought jars of Alaskan honey for auction*



*...and Dr. Steve Sheppard from WSU helps keep the auction going*

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## 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 Shoemaker, 1702 Toucan Street NW, Salem, OR 97304

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## President's Notes

by Ray Varner

The Northwest Corner Conference was a great success, with beekeepers from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California and beyond (yes, even Alaska!) getting together to learn and discuss the state of beekeeping as we look ahead to a new millenium. I am looking forward to serving as President of the OSBA and ask that you feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

I plan to stay involved in the Tracheal Mite Survey, assist new VP Dave Graber with planning next year's conference, and visit regional branch associations throughout the state (this time I'll make it to eastern Oregon!).

Just a reminder that it's not too soon to prepare for next season. This is a good time to inventory and repair equipment, and order those queens!

If you watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade this month, look for the Honey Nut Cheerios honey bee balloon. Honey and honeybees will get lots of attention with this huge balloon.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

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## NW Corner Conference Report

After a well-attended reception Thursday night, the NW Corner Conference got off to a good start with welcomes from OSBA President Torey Johnson and WSBA President Bob Stump.

The opening speaker was Dr. Hachiro Shimanuki from the USDA Beltsville Bee Lab, with a topic of "Terramycin Resistance and other Bee Diseases." Dr. Shimanuki reported that beekeepers have been using terramycin to treat AFB for 40 years, and evidence shows that bees are slowly building resistance. Wisconsin, Minnesota, Florida, Iowa, South Dakota and Connecticut have all reported resistance. The problem may lie in the formulation of the application. Extender patties may not be the best way to control AFB as they may not be rapid or strong enough. Mixing terramycin with powdered sugar and dusting frames with multiple treatments seems to be more effective. Control methods used include terramycin with a half-life of 7½ days, Tylosin with a half-life of 186 days (remains in the hive too long and taints honey), and Lauric acid, a fatty acid found naturally in chalk brood mummies (kills AFB but also kills bees). Dr. Shimanuki reported that future methods being tested include gamma radiation and high velocity electron beams used to sterilize equipment. Pat Heitkam told of a California beekeeper who had contaminated equipment radiated at UC Davis and the results were very successful.

Dr. Lynn Royce from OSU spoke on "Integrated Pest Management for Varroa". Timely application of control is essential. She suggested that beekeepers spend more time in the bee yard checking for the presence of mites, alternating approved chemicals used for control, carefully using chemicals for recommended periods of time only, and keeping the bees healthy as the front line of defense against Varroa. She spoke of the need for extending the application for a Section 18 for coumaphos for another year, and the fact that protocol needs to be established for alternating chemical useage.

Ray Varner gave a presentation on behalf of the OSBA Research Committee for the Tracheal Mite Study. Twenty-two beekeepers signed up for the study, and to date six beekeepers have completed

both stages of a medication cycle. Rebate checks have been mailed to those beekeepers. Three more people signed up to participate at the Conference, and packets will be mailed to them. Updated forms will be mailed to participants already involved.

Jack Thomas from Mann Lake spoke briefly on chemicals for use on fireants and the small hive beetle, as well as information on coumaphos.

Jamie Strange presented information on WSU's ongoing study on Varroa mites. Using chemicals and essential oils, "timing is everything when treating," he said.

Deborah Delaney spoke on a drone potency deficiency (causes and effects) study she is preparing to do at OSU. The question is, "What effect are the chemicals we are using having on drones?" She will evaluate the effect of miticides and medications on drones, including coumaphos, Apistan and terramycin.

Dr. Lillia deGuzman from the USDA Bee Lab in Baton Rouge, LA gave a report on "Russian Varroa-resistant Bees." The key word is "resistant", she said, "not immune." Treatments are still needed. Less chemicals used and alternative methods may provide effective control.

Judy Gulleeson came from South Dakota as the representative of the National Honey Board. She gave a report on honey and health research, and showed a video of ongoing nationwide ads promoting honey and its health benefits. They are using characters like Barney (the purple dinosaur) to target a very young audience.

Pat Heitkam reported for the American Beekeeping Federation, answering the question, "What does the ABF have to offer?" The ABF has the honey loan program (\$.58/lb.), promotes honey, promotes and protects honey purity and hosts the national convention (Fort Worth, TX in Jan. 2000), maintains a web site. The ABF also leads in anti-dumping efforts, forming trusts for research, providing liability insurance programs, health insurance programs for beekeepers, and offers a long-distance calling for less program.

Following state business meetings, the well-attended Friday night dinner and auction was held. Dr. Shimanuki spoke on "Beekeeping in the New (cont. on page 4)

(cont. from page 3) Millennium", dinner was delicious and the auction was very entertaining and successful. You should have been there!

On Saturday morning, Dr. Steve Sheppard from WSU gave a report on "Bees, Genetics and Mites." He reported on a study in Russia he participated in where through natural selection bees have developed a resistance to Varroa mites. Future research at WSU includes USDA continued research for mite resistant bees to study, botanical oils for tracheal mites, and other alternatives.

Dr. Michael Burgett from OSU followed with the "Pollination Review from the OSU Honey Bee Lab." He gave a summary of the pollination research done in his 25 years at OSU on various fruit, food and seed crops. A great deal of valuable information has shown growers the value of honey bees to crops in increased quality and yield, which equates to a better price at market. Dr. Burgett suggests that the next time a farmer tells you his crop doesn't need bees because the crop is self-pollinating, ask him if he knows the difference between self-pollinating and self-fertile. They are two different things. If his crops are self-fertile then he doesn't need bees, but if it's self-pollinating bees will increase his yield and/or quality.

At the Research Luncheon held Saturday afternoon, Dr. Burgett spoke and showed slides on "Beekeeping in Armenia."

After lunch, Bart Snyder gave a report on the OSBA web page and the pollinators list.

The final report was from Dr. deGuzman, speaking on "Genotypes in Varroa." There is more than one type of Varroa, and we have two of them in this country - the Russian and Japanese, according to Dr. deGuzman. This tells researchers that there has been more than one introduction into this country. Both mites are nasty and the only way you can tell the difference is by DNA testing.

The Conference ended Saturday afternoon with closing messages from WSBA President Bob Stump and the new OSBA President Ray Varner.

Over 160 people registered for the Conference, and every session was well attended. Thanks to all who worked hard to make it happen!



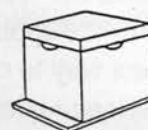
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Microbiologist

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OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING MINUTES October 29, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by President Torey Johnson. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read. The Treasurer's report was given and she informed the group that on October 1 OSBA had a balance of \$15,855 in the bank. Some of the 1999 conference amounts were included in the balance.

George Hansen reported on the American Beekeepers Federation meeting held in Nashville Tennessee in January. A full report of the meeting was included in the March issue of the Bee Line.

Ray Varner provided an update on the research committee. Six people have completed the spring sampling and have received their \$25 checks. Others have participated but results are not yet available.

Diane Varner reported on Oregon Dept. of Agriculture rumored proposed rules prohibiting honey sampling at farmer's markets. She attended an ODA meeting last December and learned the department wanted to develop guidelines rather than making rules. It is permissible to provide samples if they are given by the vendor. Certain sanitary rules apply. Guidelines have been printed for distribution.

Torey asked for reports from area representatives. Those present reported on their activities and membership.

Torey announced that any 1998 tee shirts would be sold for \$5 and there were not many left. Sales for the 1999 shirts are going well at \$8, which is slightly over our cost.

Under new business we looked at the 1998 financial summary noting that ads and dues income pay for the cost of publishing the Bee Line. Torey complimented Diane on her management of the newsletter budget. Diane said she has had to use a less expensive method for printing the Bee Line in order to stay within her budget and for better quality printing and photo reproduction the cost would be about \$32/month additional. Torey asked for a

discussion on a dues increase to help offset the extra cost.

Ron Bennett offered to talk with Diane about different locations for printing that might be more cost effective. After other suggestions were made, Tom Foster moved to raise the dues to \$20. It was noted that, according to our constitution and bylaws, a proposed dues increase must be announced to the membership 30 days prior to a general meeting which means we cannot increase the dues unless members agree to that at the 2000 conference. Ron moved to amend Tom's motion to have a committee rewrite the bylaws to allow a dues increase. Motion passed.

Delegates to the next ABF meeting will be George Hansen and Oliver Petty.

Fred VanNatta suggested that OSBA members individually consider supporting the honey queen program.

Elections were held. Candidates for president were Bart Snyder and Ray Varner with Ray winning the post. Vice president will be Dave Graber and Secretary/Treasurer Phyllis Shoemake. Area Representatives will remain the same with the exception of the Willamette Valley area which will be represented by Chuck Hunt.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Shoemake, Secretary

Advertisement for Homer Park Italian Queens, Wooten's Golden Queens, and A.I. Hygienic Breeder Queen. Includes text: 'A Family Tradition in Northern California', 'Top Quality - All around queens that perform well in all areas', 'Home of \$950 A.I. Hygienic Breeder Queen Developed Dr. Marla Spivak', '11189 Deschutes Rd. Palo Cedro, CA 96073 Toll Free 888-565-8439'. Features bee icons and terms like 'Gentle Bees', 'Good Acceptance', 'Early Build-up', 'High Productivity'.

## Honey of a Holiday Cake

Rochelle Yordy of Lebanon brought this delicious and beautiful cake to the Summer OSBA Picnic in Tillamook. Rochelle started decorating cakes when she was 12 years old, and is definitely talented in this art. She continues to take classes and is working on starting her own cake decorating business. This recipe is delicious even if you don't make it in the shape of a hexagon! Rochelle practices her cakes on lucky parents Franz and Audrey Yordy of Snow Peak Apiaries.

### Starlight Cake

2 c. flour	½ c. shortening
1 ½ c. sugar	1 c. milk
3 ½ t. baking powder	1 T. vanilla
1 t. salt	4 eggs, separated

Beat egg whites, adding ½ c. sugar a little at a time, until stiff. Beat remaining ingredients together, then fold in the egg whites. Brush pan coating on cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes.

### Pan Coating

1 c. flour	1 c. oil
1 c. solid shortening	

Mix well and store in jar. Use as needed.

### Clear Lemon Filling

¾ c. sugar	1 t. grated lemon peel
3 T. cornstarch	1 T. butter
¼ t. salt	½ c. lemon juice
¾ c. water	yellow food color

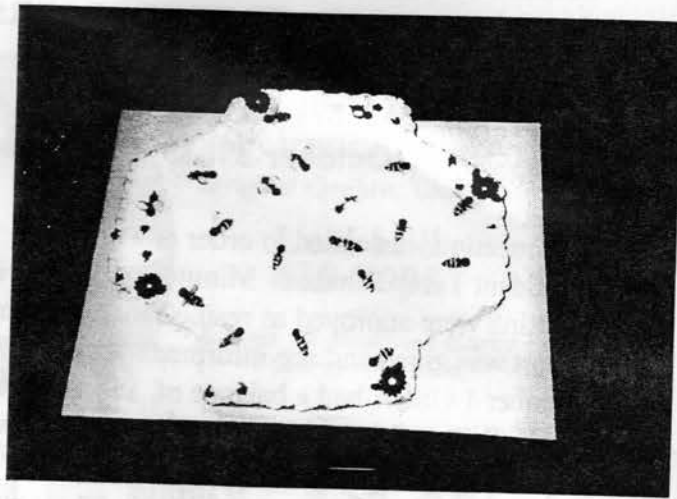
Mix sugar, cornstarch and salt in saucepan. Stir in water gradually. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens and boils. Boil and stir five minutes. Remove from heat; add lemon peel and butter. Stir in lemon juice and food color. Cool. Note: a prepared filling available at a local bakery could also be used.

### Vanilla Icing

1 c. butter	½ c. water
2 c. Crisco	1 t. salt
3 lbs. powdered sugar	2 t. vanilla

Combine ingredients; beat for 10 minutes.

If making in layer cake form: Bake layers; assemble with Lemon Filling between layers; ice with Vanilla Icing. Decorate as desired. Rochelle handmade her honeybee decorations. Happy holidays!



*Rochelle Yordy's beautiful and delicious cake*

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# EMERGENCY SURVEY

## VARROA RESISTANCE TO FLUVALINATE

From: Dr. Lynn Royce  
Oregon State University

Eric Johansen from the Washington Dept. of Agriculture is spearheading the paperwork on a Section 18 for Coumaphos for the year 2000. HE NEEDS YOUR HELP IMMEDIATELY! We need to present evidence of need, because the EPA will be looking for a need and use for this application. They will also want to know how well Bayer's Coumaphos strips are working. I have put together this questionnaire on short notice because Eric would like to have everything together by December 10<sup>th</sup>. PLEASE answer these questions today and send your replies to me so I can collate the data for Eric and get the results to him as soon as possible. If you have any observations we want to know, whether you keep one colony or over 100 colonies.

How many colonies do you manage? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you treat for Varroa? (circle one) Yes No

If yes: Did you treat with Apistan? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you treat with Coumaphos? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you treat with something else? \_\_\_\_\_ What was it? \_\_\_\_\_

If you treated with Apistan and colonies appeared to be weaker than normal, did you re-treat

with Coumaphos? \_\_\_\_\_ How long was the Apistan period? \_\_\_\_\_

How many colonies were treated with Coumaphos? \_\_\_\_\_ What was the mite drop for

each colony re-treated? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you experienced unusual colony mortality for the period of August until now? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, can you estimate the percent mortality and the difference from "normal"? \_\_\_\_\_

USE THIS INSERT FOR YOUR ANSWERS. My return address is on the back. After you complete it, just fold, staple or tape, stamp and mail. Answers will be confidential; only the data will be compiled. You do not need to put your name with your answers. THANK YOU for your prompt help.

Dr. Lynn A. Royce  
Department of Entomology  
Oregon State University  
2046 Cordley Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331-2907



## Northwest Beekeeping

### November/December:

- Order supplies for next year, verifying prices by phone before ordering.
- Disturb the bees as little as possible. Don't break the cluster.
- Check apiary occasionally for blowovers or vandalism.
- Continue the repair and/or assembly of next year's equipment.
- Tally costs for the past year: pounds of sugar used, equipment costs, medication, supplies, etc. Update information on syrup mix recipes and pollen supplement recipes.
- Record yields. Do book research on weak areas. Investigate areas of marketing interest: honey, pollen, propolis, venom, wax, royal jelly.
- Design and build better beekeeping equipment: pollen traps, hive tools, hive boxes, smokers, equipment caddies, etc.
- Attend beekeeping meetings in your area (or visit other areas!) to learn, to have fun and to share.
- Mentor a young or inexperienced beekeeper. Donate equipment, scholarship money or expertise to the 4-H Beekeepers Club.

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



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Dec. 15** Deadline for *The Bee Line*

**Jan. 12-15, 2000** ABF Annual Conference  
Fort Worth, TX. See related articles.



## OSBA Ntl. Honey Board News

By Joann Olstrom

Over the past twelve years demand for honey has increased from 250 million pounds to between 320-340 million pounds (Aug. '98 info.). The goal of the National Honey Board is to increase the annual domestic demand for honey by 25%, or to 400 million pounds by the year 2002.

Check out the websites: [www.nhb.org](http://www.nhb.org) and [www.honey.com](http://www.honey.com). Also, the NHB has a toll-free phone number: 1-800-553-7162.

On a personal note: the funniest place we ever got a swarm was from a garbage can. Nice clean can – black plastic and warm. The lid was ajar and the bees were huddled on the lid and on a styrofoam french fry container. Needless to say the owner of the garbage can wasn't thrilled. We didn't mind a bit. It gave us a chance to give a lesson on honey bees, and if it turns out we got a snapshot of Bob, cross-eyed with a bee on his nose! (Nice bee – left her stinger in her holster!) We rewarded the folks with a jar of honey and recipes, and everyone was happy.

## Bee Musings: A Winter Puzzle

By Diane Varner

I got this brain teaser from my Algebra class. This can be solved without any further information:

A census taker knocked on an apartment door. The father answered the door and said, "I have three daughters and I will let you figure out how old they are. The product of their ages is 72. The sum of their ages in the apartment number." The census taker did a quick calculation and checked the number of the apartment. He then responded by saying, "I still can't tell." The father then offered one more clue: "The oldest likes chocolate pudding." What are their ages?

(Answer on page 8).



## Member News

- ◆ Dirk Olson's father passed away in early November. Sincere sympathy to Dirk and his family during this difficult and painful time.
- ◆ At the NW Corner Conference two members were nominated and awarded Lifetime Member status. Congratulations to Phyllis Shoemake and Dr. Michael Burgett! It is hard to imagine the OSBA without these two hard-working members. Well done!

## Auction Thanks

While final numbers are not available at press time, it appears that both the silent and oral auctions were big successes. Many folks contributed items to make these events happen, and the OSBA sincerely thanks each one of you. A public "THANK YOU!" is in order. The amount and quality of the items donated far exceeded hopes.

## Bee Line Appearance to Change

Beginning with the January/February 2000 edition, the *BeeLine* will be produced on an offset printer. For the last two years the editor had to photocopy (at cost - "Thank you" to Oregon Stationers in McMinnville) each edition in order to stay within the budget, especially following two significant postage increases. The appearance quality has suffered, however, and offset printing should bring the quality level up to member expectations. The increased cost was approved by the Executive Board before the Conference, and means to implement it will be looked at by the new Executive Board at an upcoming meeting.

## Ode to the Honeybee

By Colleen Foster

(Tune: "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory")

Mine eyes have seen the fields of clover  
Waving in the breeze;  
And visiting blossoms, gathering nectar,  
Are the honeybees---

Back to their hives the workers fly---  
They're never at their ease,  
For the honey flow is on!

Bees, a part of God's creation;  
Bees, a source of fascination;  
We have cause for celebration---  
The honey flow is on!

So many miles of travel,  
Yet so tiny their reward---  
Each little drop of honey's made  
And dutifully stored.

Their work reflects the bounty  
Of a good and loving Lord---  
The honey flow is on!

Constant work and dedication,  
All important pollination;  
We rejoice with all creation---  
The honey flow is on!

### "Puzzle" answer:

List all possible combinations that have a product of 72. Example: 1,6,12 and 3,4,6 (there are at least four more). Add up the sums. Example: 1,6,12=19. Only two of the combinations have the same sum, hence the confusion about which one is right. They are 2,6,6 and 3,3,8. The second one is correct because only one number is highest (the oldest daughter clue). Like it? I have a few more for later.



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### REGIONAL BRANCH

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#### Coos County

Meets 7:30 pm third Friday (except  
Dec.) Coquille Annex, Coquille  
Pres: Wade Weathersby 541-756-  
3378

VP: Don Barney 541-267-5945

Sec./Treas.: Toni Wyatt-Kirkeby

#### Lane County

Meets 7:30 pm second Tuesday  
Pacific Cascade Credit Union

1155 Chambers St., Eugene

Pres: Chuck Hunt 541-607-0106

V Ps: Gene Garner 541-746-5972

Denny Jessup 541-687-0912

Treasurer: Frank Svejcar 541-688-  
9153

#### Portland Area

Meets 7 pm second Thursday  
Clear Creek Mutual Telephone Co.  
18238 S. Fischers Mill Rd., Oregon  
City

Pres: Jim Allison 503-663-1058

VP.: Denise Dickens 503-655-7848

Sec.: Paul Hardzinski

503-631-3927

Treas.: Charlie Snider 503-829-

9169

#### 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

Forestry Building

4909 Third Street, Tillamook

President: Bob Allen 503-322-3819

VP: Doug Taylor 503-842-4245

Sec./Treas.: Wayne Auble

#### Tualatin Valley

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Friday  
OSU Extension Office, 18640 SW  
Walker Rd., Beaverton

Pres.: Roy MacMillan 503-628-

0277

VP: Bob Ward 503-324-8123

Sec.: Mary Moss 503-357-4782

Treas.: Jerry Schwanke 503-357-

9284

#### Willamette Valley

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Monday

Rm. 112, Building 50

Chemeketa Community College,  
Salem

Pres: Richard Farrier 541-327-2673

VP: Ray Varner 503-662-4559

Sec.: Ron Bennett 503-838-2328

Treas: Fritz Skirvin 503-581-9372

## Check your Mailing 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 on page 11 each month. Note additional savings are available when ordering magazines through OSBA.

**PACKAGES ARE COMING!** Reserve your order NOW - we feature the New World Carnolian Project queens - rated as one of the *top 3 queens in the US* by the Honeybee Improvement Project!

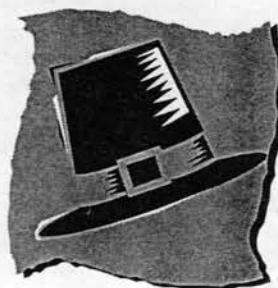
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 WWW - <http://members.aol.com/beetools>

**Check out our new Website!** It has our complete catalog, used equipment, and all sorts of tips, links and information for beekeepers

## Research Contributions

To make tax-deductible contributions for honeybee research at OSU, make your check payable to Agriculture Research Foundation (ARF) and send it to Dr. Royce at OSU (see her address on page 10).

For those of you who want to contribute to OSBA above the \$15 membership dues, please note a new line item on the form below. Your contribution can be earmarked for the Research or General Fund (specify your choice). The Executive Board wants to hold the line on increasing dues across the board but recognizes that some members would like to make one-time or ongoing contributions. Thank you for your support!



## 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 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Local Group \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Voluntary Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please apply to Research / General Fund (circle one).

Start your savings now! Get a discount on the following subscriptions through the OSBA:

<i>American Bee Journal</i>	_____ 1 yr. \$14.44	_____ 2 yrs. \$27.38	_____ 3 yrs. \$38.96
<i>Bee Culture</i>	_____ 1 yr. \$12.75	_____ 2 yrs. \$24.75	
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	_____ 1 yr. \$13.25	_____ 2 yrs. \$25.25	

Make checks payable to OSBA and send this form with payment to: Phyllis Shoemake  
 1702 Toucan St. NW  
 Salem, OR 97304

### Classified Ads

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:** 500 gallon feed tank with feed pump; plastic feeders. Call Bee's Knees at 503-640-5757.

**FOR SALE:** 40 shallows, new wire and foundation. 15 deeps. New black snap-in Piercos. 10 pollen traps, new \$15 each. 25 Westerns, new boxes, Pierco, wood. \$20 each. Some miscellaneous. High Country Honey Farm. 541-882-8409.



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