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# THE BEE LINE



The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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Volume 25, Number 8

September 2000

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## OSBA Fall Conference Nov. 2-4 at the Best Western Hood River Inn, Hood River, Oregon

The agenda for the OSBA Fall Conference is ready for publication, according to Dave Graber, OSBA Vice President and Conference Coordinator. Whether you are a hobbyist, sideliners and commercial beekeeper, this is a "must attend" event.

Not only will distinguished speakers such as Dr. Keith Delaplane from Georgia, Dr. John Skinner from Tennessee, Dr. Stephen Pernal from British Columbia, Dr. Eric Mussen and Mr. Russ Heitkam from California, our own Dr. Michael Burgett and Dr. Lynn Royce, and graduate student Debbie Delaney from OSU give presentations, but Dr. Diana Sammataro from Pennsylvania will lead a bee dissection demonstration for tracheal mites. Live bees, dissecting equipment and microscopes will be available for the lab. Don't miss this!!!

The agenda is printed on page 8.

A registration form is enclosed. Reserve your place now by completing the form and sending it to Phyllis Shoemake by October 1. Also, make your room reservations as soon as possible. The Best Western Hood River Inn can be reached at 1-800-828-7873. *Editor's note: For room information at other motels, call the Hood River County Chamber of Commerce at 800-366-3530. Another contact is a free service called Overnight Success at 800-365-6343 that lists over 2,000 lodgings. Postal regulations prohibit non-profit groups from listing or recommending specific motels or rates.*

## EPA Sets Tolerance Levels for Coumaphos

From the American Beekeeping Federation  
Press Release

In some exciting and important news for the US honey industry, the Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to establish tolerances for coumaphos in honey and beeswax. The establishment of the tolerances will allow the sale of honey which has picked up minute amounts of coumaphos from the use of Bayer's Check-Mite+ strips, used to combat varroa mites and small hive beetles. Also, it will be permissible to sell comb honey from hives treated with Check-Mite.

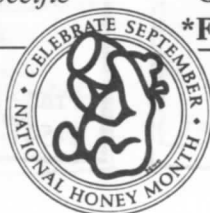
The tolerances are 0.1 ppm for honey (one-tenth part per million; same as 100 parts per billion) for honey. Recognizing that the chemical concentrates in beeswax, the EPA is setting that tolerance at 100 ppm. The determination of the tolerances was approved by the EPA on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Notification of the new tolerances was scheduled for publication on the Federal Register during the following week. For the tolerances to be effective in a given state, that state's Section 18 permit for the use of Check-Mite must be amended by the EPA, a process which will take 7-10 days.  
(cont. on page 3)

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### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- \*Wet Bottom Boards by Dr. Michael Burgett
  - \*OSBA Bylaws and Proposed Change Notice
  - \*Fall Conference Registration Form
- 



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

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### Advertising Rates

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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
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## President's Notes

by Ray Varner

We went down to Bandon for the OSBA Summer Picnic in July, and we had a great time. What a terrific group of beekeepers! It was good to see some other OSBA members there, also. Thanks to our friends in Coos County!

The Fall Conference is coming together with many confirmed speakers. See the agenda in this month's issue. There will be a hands-on demonstration of bee dissection for tracheal mites. Don't miss this one!

I received notice that the EPA had set tolerance levels in coumaphos in beeswax and honey. That's very good news! This is the kind of news I would like to see posted immediately on the web page, since it will be several weeks old between the news release and the publication/ mailing of this newsletter.

Speaking of the web page, it will be one of the items of business to be decided on at the Conference. Should we keep it? How/who to maintain it? Should it be self-supporting?

Another item of business will be dues. From the records I have seen, the last time dues were increased was in 1986, when they went from \$10 to \$15. We will be looking at a dues increase to \$20 at the Conference.

September is National Honey Month. Hopefully you have ordered and received promotional materials from the National Honey Board. By now most honey is harvested and being marketed. Enjoy the fruits of all your hard work, and see you at the Fall Conference in Hood River!

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(cont. from page 1)

"This is an important break-through for our industry," said ABF President Clint Walker. "The need for these tolerances cannot be overstated. We have been continually working with EPA, telling them our needs and our concerns. From the ABF convention in Fort Worth, we supplied EPA with documentation on the importance of Check-Mite to beekeepers and the importance of our beekeepers to the rest of agriculture. This is a story we must continue to tell."

EPA established the tolerance for coumaphos, an organophosphate, despite its general refusal to add further food uses while assessing all organophosphates. Some other industries have been refused new food uses for OPs pending the overall review.

In deciding to grant the tolerances for honey and beeswax, EPA recognized three factors:

A. The need for Check-Mite to control fluvalinate-resistant varroa is a nationwide problem, and the problem with small hive beetles is spreading. No alternative chemicals are available.

B. Honey bees provide a \$14.6 billion benefit to agriculture. This was identified as the overriding factor in granting the tolerances.

C. The addition of the tolerances for honey and beeswax adds negligible risk to the consumer. In comparison the tolerances for coumaphos in other foods – all of which are consumed in far greater volumes than honey – are: 1 ppm in meat, 0.5 ppm in milk-fat, and 0.1 ppm in eggs.

The need for the tolerances was brought to the Attention of Bayer and EPA by Sioux Honey, which had found coumaphos residues in honey from hives treated with Check-Mite strips. Those residues were on the order of 10-15 parts per billion.

## Northwest Beekeeping

**September-** Crops in bloom producing nectar and/or pollen: various herbs, white clover, peppermint, pumpkin, squash, gourds.  
Others: aster, borage, hollyhock, sagebrush, thistle.

- Provide water continuously.
- Don't tempt robber bees by exposing honey.
- Install mouse guards on all hives. Use galvanized hardware cloth with ½ inch holes.
- Check your stored comb for possible wax moth infestation.
- Pay your dues to your State and local beekeeper's associations.
- Feed if needed.
- Sign up to make school visitations this month, if possible, when most teachers make their requests. Join a partner if you want to be an assistant.

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

## Got Auction Items for Fall Conference?

Summer's fading and the honey is harvested. Time to state thinking about things to bring to the Fall Conference auction. This is an easy and fun way to raise funds for research projects. Past best-sellers include jewelry, candles, fruit and wine, and queen bees. Other ideas: one-of-a-kind bee-themed quilts or cross-stitched items, or other crafts. Any and all items are welcome, and bidding "wars" add to the good times at the Conference.

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## One Hive Equals Two Bottom Boards

By Dr. Michael Burgett, Oregon State University

Several years ago, during a March colony check of the OSU hives, I noticed that the hive bottom boards seemed quite wet. This certainly is not an unusual phenomenon for colonies overwintered in the Willamette Valley. I replaced all the wet bottom boards with new ones. The wet bottom boards piqued my interest enough that I took them all and weighed them individually. Then I placed them in the furnace room of my laboratory and waited about six weeks to re-weigh them. I was curious as to how much water was going to be removed. The figure that accompanies this short piece dramatically displays the difference in average bottom board weight (my apologies for the use of metric in the graph, but metric measures are the way of science).

The average "wet" bottom board weighed 3.40 kilograms (almost 7 and one-half pounds). The average "dried" bottom board weighed 2.24 kilograms (nearly five pounds). With some simple subtraction, the average bottom board had held 1.16 kilograms of excess water (a little more than two and one-half pounds, or two and a half pints of water).

These bottom boards came off of colonies that were in a well protected apiary site and all the colonies had been given a slight "tilt" forward expressly to prevent rain from running into the colonies through the colony entrances. The excess

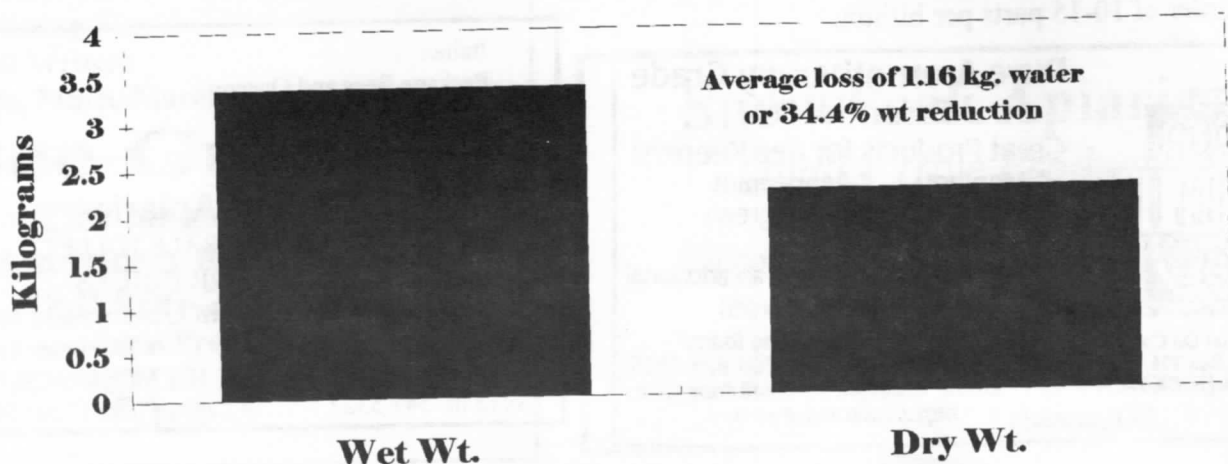
water is picked up during the winter and early spring from rainfall (by wicking), high humidity, and activities within the beehive.

So what is the harm of leaving such wet bottom boards on the colonies, after all that is what most beekeepers normally do? One feature of a natural honey bee colony and our human-made imitations, is that the cavity used by the bees is dry. If not, the bees will expend energy to dry it to the best of their abilities. Wet conditions within a hive increase the incidence of disease, especially Nosema and Chalkbrood. By replacing a wet bottom board in the spring the beekeeper is saving the bees unnecessary work and energy which the bees can then direct to a more productive and healthy colony. It is for these reasons that I always maintain two bottom boards for each colony and these bottoms are rotated annually. A small thing, yes, but a practice that when combined with others will produce healthier and more productive honey bee colonies.

## Honey Board Recipe Contest

Want to see your name in lights and get your favorite honey recipe published? The National Honey Board is sponsoring a recipe contest with prizes up to \$300 in NHB merchandise. Winning recipes will be featured in the NHB's 2001 recipe cards. State beekeeping and honey associations are invited to submit recipes on behalf of their members. For more information, contact the NHB at 1-800-553-7162 or download the entry form at [www.nhb.org](http://www.nhb.org).

## Bottom Board Water Loss



## OSBA Bylaws

It has been some time since the OSBA Bylaws have been published in *The Bee Line*. New members may not have had the opportunity to review the Bylaws. In order to fulfill Article I, Section 1 which provides "Upon acceptance of the membership fee, he or she is entitled to receive a copy of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association's Constitution and Bylaws," the Bylaws are printed below. The Constitution was printed in the August 2000 issue.

### BYLAWS

*Revised and amended December, 1993*

#### Article I - Membership

Section 1. Membership. All applications for membership of whatever class must be made to the Secretary or authorized representative and must be accompanied by the annual dues. Upon acceptance of the membership fee, he or she is entitled to receive a copy of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association's Constitution and Bylaws.

#### Section 2. Fees and Dues.

(A) Paid members. Paid members shall pay annual dues of \$15. Any member wishing to donate funds toward the general fund or a specific program may do so. Such funds shall be earmarked and spent only for the benefit of the program so specified at the time of the donation.

(B) Honorary Life Members. Honorary life members shall freely participate in all activities of the State Association and shall pay no dues or fees, except if an honorary life member wishes to join more than one Branch Association, he shall pay the dues of the additional Branch(es).

(C) Bee Line Subscribers. Bee Line subscribers shall pay a subscription fee of \$15 per year for ten issues of the association's publication. For bookkeeping purposes, the same dollar amount of each paid membership shall be set aside as subscription and thereby support the printing and distribution of the publication.

(D) Branch Associations. One dollar (\$1) of the dues collected for membership in Oregon State Beekeepers Association may be retained by the Branch Association. If the member resides where there is no Branch Association, the State Association shall retain the one dollar.

(E) Dues. Dues may be paid at any time and are current for twelve (12) months. Any dues not paid within one month after they are due are delinquent and membership is cancelled.

#### Article II - Duties of Officers

Section 1. President. The President shall be the directing head and Chief Executive Officer and shall preside at all meetings. He shall act as Chairman of the Executive Committee, appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, fill all vacancies in office taking place between elections, and call all special meetings of the executive committee and of the general membership when requested to do so as provided by the Constitution. He shall be responsible for seeing that all officers, elected or appointed, perform their respective duties and take the initiative in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the organization and its membership.

Section 2. Vice President. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall assume the responsibilities ordinarily falling upon the President. In the absence of both officers, the members may elect a Chairman to serve for the time being. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to serve as Program Chairman of the Association.

Section 3. Secretary/Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Secretary/Treasurer to record all minutes of the annual and special meetings of the general membership. He shall keep his financial records in good condition showing all amounts received and disbursed by him, from whom received, to whom and for what paid. He shall perform such other duties as would naturally be assigned to that office.

Section 4. Regional Directors. Regional Directors shall serve on the Executive Committee. The seven Regional Directors shall be elected from different areas of the State and will be expected to be aware of the problems facing beekeeping in those areas and be responsible for bringing these problems to the attention of the Executive Committee and the members.

#### Article III-Duties of Committees

Section 1. Honey Sales Promotion. It shall be the duty of this committee to take the initiative in (cont. on page 6)

(cont. from page 5)

all movements to better honey marketing conditions for Oregon beekeeping products.

Section 2. Organization and Branches. It shall be the duty of this committee to take the initiative in any line of activity with will increase the membership and interest in the State and branch organizations.

Section 3. Fairs and Exhibitions. It shall be the duty of this committee to cooperate with the Oregon State Fair Board in developing the bee and honey exhibit at the Oregon State Fair, and to cooperate with local and district fair managers in developing larger and better honey exhibits in their respective fairs.

Section 4. Research and Education. It shall be the duty of this committee to (a) take the initiative in securing financial support for research and education work in beekeeping in Oregon, (b) cooperate with Oregon State University, the Oregon Experiment Station and United State Department of Agriculture in developing a practical program of research and education as it relates to beekeeping in Oregon.

Section 5. Nectar and Pollen Flora. It shall be the duty of this committee to cooperate with Oregon State University, the Oregon Experiment Station, Roadside Council, Soil Conservation Service, State and County Highway Departments, Forest Service and other groups to further the introduction of nectar and pollen plants wherever possible.

Section 6. Pollination. It shall be the duty of this committee to (a) further the use of bees for pollinating horticultural and field crops, (b) educate growers to the needs of bees for pollination, (c) cooperate with members and growers in placing bees for pollination through advertising and any other means, (d) pro-rate advertising and operational costs of this department on a per colony basis for bees rented as a result of this advertising.

Section 7. Public Relations. It shall be the duty of this committee to secure news items and photographs for publication at all beekeeping functions, to work with officers and committees on proper exposure of apiculture to the public,

whatever and however possible, whether by newspapers, radio, television or other news media.

Section 8. Laws and Regulations. It shall be the duty of this committee to (a) keep abreast of all legislation pertaining to and/or affecting beekeeping in Oregon and to help keep the Association informed, and (b) carry through legislation when the Association deems necessary.

Section 9. Youth Organization. It shall be the duty of this committee to (a) encourage and promote beekeeping and beekeeping projects among youth groups and organizations, (b) recommend and supervise awards and achievement programs for young people interested in beekeeping.

Section 10. Honey Queen. It shall be the duty of this committee to (a) follow the guidelings of the Executive Committee to solicit candidates for and to select the Oregon Honey Queen, (b) schedule and promote activities for the Queen, (c) raise funds sufficient to support the costs of the Oregon Honey Queen program, and (d) account for all monies to the Secretary/Treasurer.

#### Article IV-Amendments

These Bylaws may be altered or amended only at an annual convention by a three-fourths vote of the total membership present at the meeting, provided notice of the proposed changes have been sent to all members at least one month (30 days)

### Notice: Proposed Bylaw Changes By Ray Varner

As provided for in the Bylaws, Article IV printed above, I am providing notice to all OSBA members that there will be discussion and vote at the Fall Conference Business Meeting in November 2000 to alter or amend the Bylaws as follows: increase amount of annual dues to an amount to be decided at the Business Meeting (Article I, Section 2(A) and 2(C)), and expansion of the Education and Research Committee (Article III, Section 4) to include creation of a Master Beekeeping Program to provide educational opportunities to members on either a self-study basis or other format to be determined.

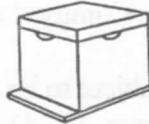
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## Fall Conference Agenda

### Thursday, Nov. 2, 2000

- 5 pm Executive Board Meeting
- 6 pm Registration
- 6:30-8:30 pm Kick-off wine & cheese social

### Friday morning, Nov. 3, 2000

- 7-8 am Registration
- 8:15 am Welcome from the OSBA President Ray Varner

8:30 am **"Integrated Pest Management"** -  
Dr. Lynn Royce, OSU

9 am - 5 pm Commercial exhibits open

9-10:15 am **"Hands-on Tracheal Mite Lab"** -  
Dr. Diana Sammataro, University of  
Pennsylvania

10:15-10:30 Refreshment break

10:30-11:30 am **"Queen Bees California Style"**-  
Russ Heitkam, Heitkam Honey Bees

11:30-12:30 pm No host lunch

### Friday afternoon sessions

1-2:15 pm **"Pheromone Studies"** - Dr. Stephen  
Pernal, Simon Fraser University, British  
Columbia

2:15-2:30 pm Refreshment break

2:30-3:30 pm **"Honey Plants"**- Dr. John Skinner,  
University of Tennessee

3:30-4 pm **"Drone Potency Effects Research"** -  
Debbie Delaney, OSU graduate student

4-5 pm OSBA Business Meeting

### Friday evening dinner

5:00-6 pm No host social hour

6-7 pm Banquet

7-8 pm **"Beekeeping in Albania"** - Dr. Keith  
Delaplane, University of Georgia

8-10 pm OSBA Benefit Auction

### Saturday morning, November 4, 2000

7:30-8 am Registration

8am-2:45 pm Commercial exhibits open

8-9:15 am Subject to be announced - Dr. Eric  
Mussen, UC Davis

10:15-10:30 am Refreshment break

10:30-11:30 am **"Hobbyist Beekeepers Tennessee  
Style"**- Dr. John Skinner, University of  
Tennessee

### Saturday afternoon

11:30-1:30 pm Research luncheon  
Profits from the luncheon go to the OSU  
Bee Lab

1:30-2:30 pm To be announced

2:30-3:30 Subject to be announced - Dr. Eric  
Mussen, UC Davis

3:30-4 pm Conference wrap-up

Please note: there are some topics yet to be decided by the individual speakers. They will be confirmed in the next issue of the *Bee Line*. Also, there will be time set aside for our traditional drawings and announcements, but we want to give our speakers the most time possible.



**Oregon State Beekeepers Fall Conference 2000**  
**Best Western Inn, Hood River, Oregon**  
**November 2,3,4, 2000**

*Please use separate form for each person registering.*

Attendee's Last Name      First Name      MI      Registration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

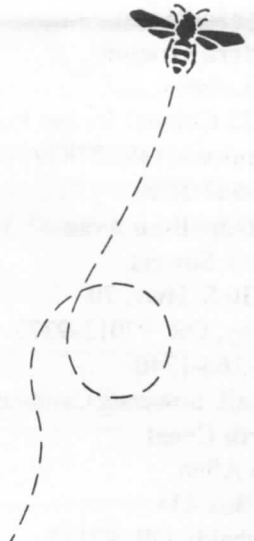
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Event	Registration For Individual Days	Full Conference Registration
Thursday Night Wine\Cheese Reception	Complimentary	Complimentary
Friday Conference Only @ \$35 (see item 1. below)	\$	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Sat. Conference Only @ \$35 (see item 1 below)	\$	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Full Conference @ \$55 (see item 1 below)	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	\$
Friday Evening Banquet @ \$25.00	\$	\$
Saturday Noon Lunch @ \$15.00	\$	\$
OSBA Membership (includes Bee Line) \$15.00	\$	\$
<b>Total Conference Registration Fee.</b>	\$	\$
If exhibiting, num. of tables @ \$25.00 each _____	<b>Total Conference Registration Fee + Exhibitor's table fee</b>	\$



- Attendees qualify for the Pre Registration Rate if the Application Form (with Registration Fee) is postmarked on or before Oct.1, 2000 . Late or On Site registration rates are: One day \$45; Full Conference \$65.
- Make checks payable to OSBA.
- Mail all completed Registration Forms and payment to: Phyllis Shoemake, 1702 Toucan St. NW. Salem OR 97304
- Hotel reservations are not included in these rates. Make your reservations at the Best Western Inn , Hood River Oregon: 1-800-828—7873 and ask for the OSBA Fall Conference.



## Who's Who in the OSBA Resource Guide

### OFFICERS

#### **President**

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### WEB PAGE

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[www.oda.state.or.us/oda.html](http://www.oda.state.or.us/oda.html)

### REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

#### **Coos County**

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

VP: Bruce McDonald  
Sec: Karen Dagit

#### **Lane County**

Meets 7:30 pm second Tuesday  
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V Ps: Gene Garner 541-746-5972  
Ken Ograin 541-935-7065  
Treas: Nancy Ograin 541-935-  
7065

Sec/Ed: Kathy Hunt 541-607-0106

#### **Portland Area**

Meets 7 pm second Thursday  
Redland Grange Hall  
18131 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: Jim Marshall 503-642-3319  
Sec: Mary Moss 503-357-4782  
and Dan Hiscoe 503-662-4502  
Treas: Trudy Gissel 503-429-6603  
and Jimi Kolesar 503-429-9802

#### **Willamette Valley**

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Monday  
Rm. 112, Building 50  
Chemeketa Community College,  
Salem  
Pres: Harry Vanderpool 503-399-  
7390  
VP: Mike Rodia 503-364-3275  
Sec: Ron Bennett 503-838-2328  
Treas: Fritz Skirvin 503-581-9372



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