
THE BEE LINE



The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 25, Number 9

October 2000

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

The agenda for the OSBA Fall Conference is finalized, according to Dave Graber, OSBA Vice President and Conference Coordinator. Not only will Conference attendees get to hear some world-class speakers, they may also participate in a "hands-on" tracheal mite dissection lab. Get a close look at one of the mites that is causing our industry so much grief!

We welcome Dr. Keith Delaplane from Georgia, Dr. Diana Sammartaro from Pennsylvania, 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. There will be educational displays and handouts. This is the one Conference you don't want to miss!!!

A registration form is enclosed. Reserve your place now by completing the form and sending it to Phyllis Shoemaker 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.*

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
- 8:00 am Welcome from the OSBA President Ray Varner
- 8:15-9:15 am **"Integrated Pest Management Research"** - Dr. Diana Sammartaro, Penn State
- 9 am - 5 pm Commercial exhibits open
- 9:15-10:15 am **"Hands-on Tracheal Mite Lab"** - Dr. Diana Sammartaro, Penn State
- 10:15-10:30 Refreshment break
- 10:30-11:30 am **"Bees California Style"** - Russ Heitkam, Heitkam Honey Bees
- 11:30-12:30 pm No host lunch

Friday afternoon sessions

- 12:30-1 pm **"Update on OSU Beekeeping"** - Dr. Michael Burgett, OSU

(cont. on page 3)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- *October Beekeeping by Dr. Michael Burgett
 - *OSU Summer Research by Dr. Lynn Royce
 - *State & County Fair Reports
-
-

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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TODAY

President's Notes

by Ray Varner

The Fall Conference is coming together in some very exciting ways. This year we are trying to make the Conference interesting and meaningful to more members. The Friday morning hands-on lab will give those who want to see the tracheal mite for themselves a chance to do just that, either by dissecting a bee or watching it done. Seeing the mite is a lot different than just talking about it. Dr. Royce at OSU proposed the creation of a number of educational displays and handouts to go along with them, so there will be more visual materials both at the Conference and for attendees to take home. And did you notice the list of speakers? This is a Who's Who list in the beekeeping industry. You are going to get your money's worth from this event, no doubt about it.

This was a new one to me – kairomones. Dr. Pernal from British Columbia is going to talk about them. Similar to pheromones, but different. Come hear about it now, because you will be hearing more in the future. Drone potency, terramycin resistance, integrated pest management – no fluff on this agenda.

Equipment innovations – we tried a new bottom board design during the summer research at OSU. It is easy to make and extremely helpful in many ways. A sample will be on display, with a handout showing how to make your own.

In the business meeting we will be looking at a dues increase and expansion of the Education and Research Committee to create a Master Beekeeping Program. Formal notice was given in the September BeeLine as provided for in the Bylaws.

Don't miss this first Conference of the new millennium. There's too much to learn, and decisions to be made that need your attendance.

On a personal note, by Conference time Diane and I will be one month away from being first-time grandparents. Come see the "teddy bear with a honey bee" quilt Diane is making for the Friday night auction, and the cross-stitch baby bib. We're overflowing with baby goodies!

See you in Hood River!

(cont. from page 1)

Friday afternoon sessions (cont.)

1-2:15 pm **"The Use of Kairomones for Control of *Varroa jacobsoni*"** – Dr. Stephen Pernal, Simon Fraser University, BC

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 **"Recent Research on Fungicides"** – Dr. Eric Mussen, UC Davis

9:15-10:15 **"Cultural Factors Affecting Chalkbrood"** – Dr. Keith Delaplane, University of Georgia

10:15-10:30 am Refreshment break

10:30-11:30 am **"Hobby 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 Research Lab

1:30-2:30 pm **"Ancient Honey Bees"** – Dr. Michael Burgett, OSU

2:30-3:30 pm **"Resistance of American Foulbrood to Terramycin"**– Dr. Eric Mussen, UC Davis

3:30-4 pm Conference wrap-up

October in the Beeyard

By Dr. Michael Burgett, Oregon State University

A useful tool for successful beekeeping is an activities calendar for the beeyard (apiary). I am often asked what is a good reference text for a beginning, and/or non-commercial beekeeper. The one I most frequently suggest is the book by Roger A. Morse, *A YEAR IN THE BEEYARD*. It is a monthly guide for apiary management, and while it is an excellent format it was written for the bee year of the northeastern U.S. There certainly are some common features to New York and Oregon beekeeping, but major differences exist. Based on the insights of 26 years at OSU, I would like to offer my thoughts on good apiary management for our unique region. This month by month approach targets non-commercial beekeepers and primarily focuses on western Oregon.

OCTOBER

Most laypersons have a false concept of a honey bee colony. They see it as a static "animal" that requires little or no human input and a unit that does not change in size. Experienced beekeepers certainly know differently. A honey bee colony requires proper management in order to go through the annual cycle of growth and productivity and decline. The key concept is "annual cycle." So where to begin? I have chosen the end of the beekeeper's year as an appropriate place to start. For western Oregon that is October.

October should be conceptualized as the end of the colony's annual foraging cycle, and the beginning of the long non-foraging period, what some would call the winter. It is also the time of year when the beekeeper should look with satisfaction at his or her hives and say "job well done." And now we can all rest until the beginning of the new foraging year. In western Oregon, a hive of bees that requires management anytime between October 1 until about the 1st of March is a hive that was not properly prepared for winter and signifies mismanagement by the beekeeper.

(cont. on page 4)

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What should your colonies look like on the first of October? Let us first talk about the configuration of the hives. The individual colony should be housed in a minimum space of at least one deep hive body with an additional honey super, the size of which is up to the individual beekeeper. My choice is a deep hive body and two western supers of honey - this is normally more than sufficient food stores. My philosophy is to have a hive in early March that did not eat all the food I left it in October, rather than a hive that is dead in early March because I did not leave it enough stores.

How much food should you leave a colony? My target for October 1st is to have a minimum of 40 pounds of honey stores above the deep super. But bees need more than honey to survive well. Pollen (protein) is also a major consideration for the wintering of bees. Much less is known about this, but several reputable authorities recommend ten to 15 pounds of stored pollen, usually in the deep frames of the lower chamber. These pollen combs should be positioned laterally to the central frames which contain the brood nest. In western Oregon the late summer/early autumn (August and September) is a period of pollen abundance and the bees will usually store sufficient pollen around the ever diminishing brood nest.

What about the bee population? There is debate concerning colony strength at the end of the foraging year. By early October a minimum population should be at least 25,000 worker bees. A deep hive body with nine combs (ten, if you so prefer) would just comfortably accommodate this "volume" of worker bees. And, obviously, one healthy, preferably young queen. The drone population is in serious decline by October and will eventually approach zero as the autumn progresses. Brood production has also been in decline since mid-summer, and you should expect an October hive to have four to six deep frames of brood, each with about 50% of the cells occupied by eggs, larvae and pupae. The brood population will continue to get smaller and smaller until it bottoms out in December and January before beginning to cycle upward.

Many Oregon beekeepers prefer Carniolan and/or Caucasian strains of honey bees for our Pacific Northwest conditions. It is claimed that

these darker races of bees will reduce brood production sooner and consume fewer food stores throughout the winter. I would not want to argue those claims, however research has shown there is a direct correlation between late summer colony strength and success in wintering. Simply put, the more bees in your hive in October, the better the chances for a successful wintering. The Italian strain is well known for its late brood ability and larger colony populations late in the summer.

By early October a colony should be visualized as two stories, with 95% of all the biological activity, meaning the queen and brood nest and the majority of worker bees, in the lower brood chamber with the honey stores above the brood nest. For the next four to five months, the bee cluster will slowly eat its way upward. A warning: never leave queen excluders in your colonies over the autumn and winter. For most of us this sounds like unnecessary advice, knowing that a queen excluder would block the natural upward movement of a queen during the winter months, but it has happened.

Your apiary: all your colonies should be placed on hive stands that keep them from direct contact with the ground. I use hive stands of pressure-treated 2" x 6" lumber that accommodate two colonies each. The individual hives should be tilted slightly forward to prevent any rain from going into the hive entrances. The entrances should also be reduced to an opening of about 2" to 3" by 3/8". There are specially designed wooden entrance reducers that can be purchased commercially, but almost any material that "shrinks" the hive opening will do. The apiary should have protection from the wind and provide good air and water drainage. The colonies should be positioned to take full advantage of the "infrequent" sunshine of our autumn and winter months.

In western Oregon it is not necessary to encumber hives with any type of winter wrapping or packing. Our winters are not cold enough, nor long enough where winter wrapping would be advisable. The major problem for western Oregon is the amount of precipitation and dampness. By making sure your colonies are "tight" and positioned to shed the rain, you will have done as much as is necessary to protect your hives from our environment.

(cont. on page 5)

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In short, October is a month of little to no active management of your colonies. What you did in the late summer, if done properly, will ensure the greatest chance of wintering success.

Summer Research at OSU

By Dr. Lynn Royce, Oregon State University Entomologist

The first rain in many weeks, the cool nights, the swallows gathering on the power lines, all remind us that summer is ending. Harvest has been in full swing for some time, and golden moonlit nights and colored leaves put us in the mood for autumn. The time to be mellow and enjoy nature's bounty contrasts with the need for winter preparations: finishing up undone summer projects and completing harvest, data crunching, etc. etc. It keeps us busy!

We gathered the last data set for this season from our research hives. The bees let us know they did not want to see us again this year. In fact, they took out their frustrations on those Crop Science folks in the wheat plots who didn't appreciate the attention. Dirk Olsen and Dr. Burgett (thank you!) had to rescue the hives since I was out of town and move them to the Bee Lab, and treated them for mites (all the colonies are carrying very heavy loads). We hope some survive to give us startup colonies for spring.

The data is not giving up the answers I looked for without statistical help. Thus, I cannot say much at this point. Safe to say the nonchemical treatments are by themselves not the answer to Varroa parasitism. Formic acid appears to show some promise. I think we need to let our suppliers know that we want to have it as an option.

There is a lot to do this winter: equipment to repair and replace, apiary location to find, reports to write, and next years equipment to design. If we stop now you have only a tiny piece of the picture. The past season took a lot of effort on the part of all of us. I could not have done this without your support. Ray Varner was at each data collection, and he organized equipment repair, cleaning and

building. Your donation kept Alex Kroeger employed and his help was essential. Donations (thank you!) equalled about \$1,000, while Alex cost \$2,000. I will be submitting research proposals to the OSBA and other agencies, and will keep you posted.

What I hope to have at the end of this season is baseline data on treatments like screen bottom boards, formic acid, and juniper. That is: do any of these treatments reduce mite populations and by how much. In following seasons I want to look at combinations of these treatments. How we put these combinations together will depend on how our data looks after statistical application. We can also look at what other researchers are finding across the country, however, it is important to remember that local conditions such as weather, management, etc. play a role in what works. Since this is your project too, your suggestions will be important.

I will have more at the Fall Conference. I look forward to seeing you there.

Western Apiculture Society Returns to Oregon State University

Dr. Michael Burgett, President of the Western Apicultural Society, announced the venue for the annual meeting of WAS-01. The Conference will be held on the campus of Oregon State University from August 15-18 2001. This a return of WAS to a campus site after several years of non-university locations. Campus housing and dining packages will be available to participants. Also returning will be the well-known Oregon salmon bake and bee beards.

A featured speaker at the WAS-01 meeting will be Dr. Nicola Bradbear, the director of Bees In Development (United Kingdom). Dr. Bradbear is well known and respected for her beekeeping development throughout the world.

Full details of the meeting program will be announced later this year.

Clackamas County Fair News

By Paul Hardzinski

The OSBA awards 4-H exhibitors at County Fairs cash awards for exhibits and presentations that illustrate or use bees or bee products. We have an active group in Clackamas County, and following is a description of the awards given.

Alissa Rozos, a 10th grader from Tualatin, made spelt bread (yeast bread with alternative grains) with honey used as a sweetener. She won a blue ribbon and a \$10 cash award.

Andrea Simpson, a 6th grader from Gladstone won a blue ribbon and \$10 for a mini-meal of fruit kabobs with a dip which used honey.

Meagan Kaugmann, a 10th grader from Tualatin won a blue ribbon and \$10 for an educational display entitled "The Body Bee." Meagan's display also went on to the State Fair.

Nathan Stevens, a 6th grader from Estacada won a blue ribbon and \$10 for his candles made from beeswax. Nathan also made an educational display of a complete three-super hive loaded with equipment. This display also went on to the State Fair.

Hanna Gillan, an 8th grader from Clackamas, won a blue ribbon and \$10 for her display of extracted honey.

Congratulations to all the participants and winners!

Editor's note: The Clackamas County 4-H group is active and gets a lot of help from Paul Hardzinski. Many thanks to Paul for all his efforts! What a great group of kids!

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Northwest Beekeeping

October

- Remove Apistan strips this month (after they have been on 56 days).
- Feed all light colonies with a saturated sugar solution (two parts sugar to one part water). Don't feed poor grades of honey.
- Tilt all hives, making them 3/4" higher in the back than in the front to drain condensation out of the entrance.
- Replace summer lids with metal telescoping covers and provide ventilation space under the inner cover.
- Raise hives onto stands, off the ground. The hives should be exposed to the sun and protected from winds.
- Some Northwest beekeepers do not reduce the size of hive entrances, but if you choose to do so, do so now.
- Continue precautions against robbing.
- Store comb in a cool, dry place and use moth crystals to fumigate, not mothballs.
- Repair and store equipment.
- Make plans for next year and start equipment supply order list.

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.



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State Fair Results

The Bee Booth at the State Fair was a busy place, with the bee cage and observation hive drawing crowds. At one point in the observation hive several bees were seen carrying wax moth larvae around, trying to find a way to get it out of the hive. What a rare sight for fairgoers to see!

There were many entries and ribbon winners in both the hobby and commercial categories. Thanks to all who entered! Now for the winners:

Hobbyists:

Extracted honey:

John Schoon, first in wildflower and mixed flavors
Phyllis Shoemake, second in wildflower and clover
Neal Sauter, first in clover
Duane Hann, first in any other fruit, second in blackberry and vetch

Comb/Chunk Honey:

David Sauter, first place comb, second place chunk
Fred VanNatta, first place round comb

Wax: **Duane Hann**, first place

Frames:

David Sauter, first place shallow
Fred VanNatta, first place western
Duane Hann, second place western

Commercial:

Extracted honey:

Walter Nichol, first place clover, any other fruit, and fireweed; second place any other mixed, and any other source, third place blackberry
Torey Johnson, first place blackberry, any other mixed, any other source

Comb/Chunk Honey:

Torey Johnson, first place in both

Frames:

Torey Johnson, first in shallows and westerns

Commercial Family Apiary:

Torey Johnson, first place

CONGRATULATIONS to all participants! Great job!

Conference Menu Choices

When you check in at the Conference in Hood River, you will be asked your choice of entrée for the Friday evening dinner event. The choices will be: Broiled Pork Chops, Filet of Halibut or Breast of Chicken. The Saturday luncheon will be the regular Sandwich Buffet selection.

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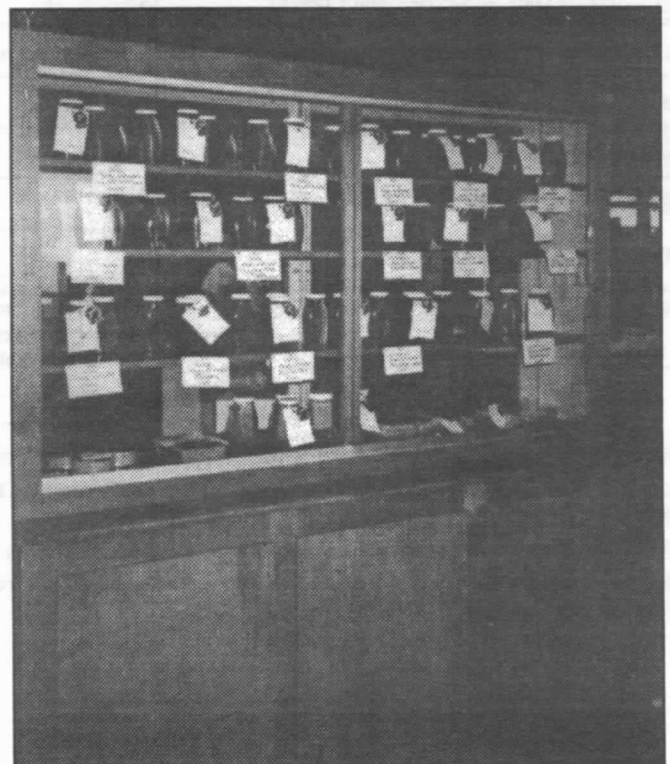
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Oregon State Beekeepers Fall Conference 2000
Best Western Inn, Hood River, Oregon
November 2, 3 & 4 2000

Please use separate form for each person registering.

Attendee's Last Name _____ **First Name** _____ **MI** _____ **Registration Date:** _____

Company Name (if applicable) _____

Home Phone _____ **Work Phone** _____ **Cell Phone** _____

Mailing or Street Address _____ **Fax Phone** _____

City _____ **State/Province** _____ **Postal Code** _____ **E-Mail** _____

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	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total Conference Registration Fee.	\$ _____	\$ _____
If exhibiting, num. of tables @ \$25.00 each _____	Total Conference Registration Fee + Exhibitor's table fee	→ \$ _____

- 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

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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
McNutt Room, Eugene City Hall
777 Pearl St., Eugene
Pres: Chuck Hunt 541-607-0106
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

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.

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

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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. Membership outside the US is \$23.

Name _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

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
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