Oregon State Beekeepers Association
2015 Fall Conference
November 6–8, 2015
Oregon Garden & Resort | Silverton, Oregon
Conference Exhibitors

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Beeline Apiaries & Woodenware
Blue Sky Bee Supply
Complete Bee (see ad, page 21)
Dadant (see ad, page 20)
GloryBee (see ad, page 4)
Linn Benton Tractor Co
Mann Lake (see ad, page 8)
Ruhl Bee Supply (see ad, page 10, with new retail store location)
Shastina Millwork (see ad, page 18)
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Welcome!

The 2015 OSBA Fall Conference, which focuses on Products of the Hive, takes place on the lovely grounds of the Oregon Garden. Events are held in the J. Frank Schmidt Jr. Pavilion, the Natural Resources Education Center, and the Main Lodge at Oregon Garden Resort, as indicated on diagrams at the bottom of this page. Additional information in this program includes:

- Exhibitors: page 2
- Program Abstracts: page 5
- Agenda: page 11
- Presenters: page 13

In addition to learning from conference presenters, their presentations, and one another, we’ll have opportunities to:

- Visit during breaks over morning coffee/tea—and snacks later in the day
- Check out exhibitor wares inside the rooms of the Pavilion and outside the building walls
- Donate as well as bid on items in the silent and benefit auctions
- Observe pest and disease analyses in the mobile OSU Honey Bee Lab
- View entries and see how they (including yours) rank in the Honey Show
- Visit during luncheons and the evening banquet

Be sure to ask for additional information if you have questions. Enjoy the conference!
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Friday, November 6

Registration 6:00 PM

Wine and Cheese Reception 7:00 PM

“Partly to Mostly” – Forecasting Weather in the Pacific Northwest 8:00 PM
Presenter: Rufus LaLone, The Weather Café®

It’s a privilege to share the fascinating and ever-changing outlook for the weather that directly affects many aspects of our lives. The WxCafe™ is a service for you, your business, household, and agency. Please view The WxCafe™ as a supplement to other excellent weather service providers in our area, both public and private. This presentation promises lots of humor and science, controversy and assurance. You won’t be disappointed.

Saturday, November 7

Daytime Events

Registration 7:30 AM

Silent Auction | Manager: Marjie Ehry 8:00 AM–4:00 PM

Bee School 8:30 AM–3:00 PM
Director: Thom Trusewicz, Astoria Beekeeper

Beekeeping is an art and a science. Novice beekeepers and those interested in becoming beekeepers will learn how to be successful with a venture of keeping honey bees. Meet in the Education Center.

Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Lab Members: Jared Jorgensen and Hannah Lucas, Honey Bee Lab, Oregon State University

The OSU Honey Bee Lab has a mobile lab in the OAN Room on Saturday and Sunday. Stop by and take a look! You will have an opportunity to see how we analyze honey bee samples for Nosema, do Varroa mite counts, and dissect bees for tracheal mites and hypopharyngeal glands. The OSU team can also tell you about current research projects and extension events.

Honey Show 10:00 AM–4:00 PM
Entries Due: 10:00 AM | Judging: 10:00 AM–NOON | Judge: Trevor Riches

Research Luncheon (Preregistration required) NOON
Presenter: Carolyn Breece, Oregon State University

The Oregon Master Beekeeper program began in 2012. Since then, it has educated about 626 beekeepers and issued 189 Apprentice Beekeeper certifications (many will be certified in late fall/winter of this year). The 103 Journey Beekeeper students have the opportunity to share their knowledge through service activities, and they receive advanced beekeeping education in events such as the Oregon Master Beekeeper Institute, Lab Day at OSU, and a summer field day. We have an astounding 106 volunteer mentors signed up to mentor the Apprentice class of 2016. We thank them for their time in providing essential hands-on training to new beekeepers. The Master Beekeeper level will be launched in January 2016, and the committee is planning a commercial beekeeper workshop. If you are interested in participating in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, please visit www.oregonmasterbeekeeper.org.
**Welcome:** Paul Andersen, President, Oregon State Beekeepers Association  
8:15 AM

**Oxalic Acid and Concepts in Mite Management**  
Presenter: Randy Oliver, ScientificBeekeeping.com  
8:30 AM

We can’t count on our current miticides to keep working. In order to continue to control Varroa, beekeepers will need to better understand Varroa biology, management techniques, and effective options for treatment (including oxalic acid).

**Bee Informed Partnership**  
Presenter: Ellen Topitzhofer, Oregon State University  
9:15 AM

As of last year, the Pacific Northwest Tech Transfer Team has been working with commercial beekeepers in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. The team’s primary focus is to monitor colony health through quick and standardized sampling methods. This update on the team's achievements includes pesticide analyses on eleven of our region’s pollination crops, magnitude of EFB observations, and gathering insight from data on routine protein samples.

**2J Honey Farms**  
Presenter: Jay Miller, 2J Honey Farms  
10:15 AM

In January 2008, Jay Miller and his son-in-law Brody Tomazin left Miller's Honey Farms and started 2J Honey Farms. They began with 1,700 hives with a base in Blackfoot, Idaho. They ran bees for a summer in South Dakota on shares and found that unattractive. Jay’s father, Neil, knew Dave Nelson, a former Power’s Honey Manager who owned an operation in Williston, North Dakota. Tony Noyes suggested they talk to him, and they purchased his 1,700 hive operation in November 2009. In October 2013, Jason Escapole was killed in a small plane accident, and they helped his parents liquidate his assets. They bought half of his bees, and Keith Bobo bought the other half. In 2014, they purchased another bee operation in Challis, Idaho. They currently have 4,000 hives.

**The 10 Most Important Things You Need to Know About the National Honey Board**  
Presenter: George Hansen, Foothills Honey Company  
11:00 AM

The National Honey Board is a federal research and promotion board under USDA oversight. Because beekeepers are no longer assessment payers for the research and promotion board, George will provide information for those who may need to be brought up to speed on activities.

**Wholesale Honey Considerations**  
Presenters: Alan Turanski and Julie Willoughby, GloryBee  
1:15 PM

Do the terms food grade liners, FSMA, and CCP start to make your head spin? Join us for a presentation and discussion that will debunk the myths and simplify the steps you need to take to sell quality honey.

**VanCalcar Apiaries Inc**  
Presenter: Nick VanCalcar, VanCalcar Apiaries Inc  
2:00 PM

Nick has been running VanCalcar Apiaries Inc since 2000. Over the years, the business has grown, and he has had numerous successes and worked through various setbacks and tragedies. Nick will share some of the highs and lows of his experiences.

**Changes on the Landscape Impacting Honey Bee Forage and Nutrition**  
Presenter: Peter Berthelsen, Director of Habitat Partnerships, Pheasants Forever Inc  
3:00 PM

Recent years have seen dramatic changes on the landscape that have produced challenges for beekeepers and wildlife in general. Peter will identify some of those changes and their potential impacts, and offer new solutions and suggestions that can benefit honey bees, Monarch Butterflies, and a wide range of wildlife.
Swarm Fundamentals
Presenter: Karessa Torgerson, EAS Master Beekeeper
Swarming honey bee colonies are a second-year beekeeper’s recipe for insomnia, and an experienced beekeeper’s annual headache. They are also an awe-inspiring marvel of nature: tens of thousands of individual creatures using collaborative problem-solving, decentralized control, and open, honest debate to achieve a decision-making efficiency and accuracy that puts human beings to shame. Karessa will cover what we know about the process and how to work with the swarm impulse to create the best outcomes for both honey bees and beekeepers.

EVENING EVENTS
OSBA General Membership Meeting 4:30 PM–5:45 PM
Social Event 6:00 PM
Banquet (Preregistration required) 7:00 PM
Keynote: Getting Stung—Wisdom I Have Been Exposed to Whilst Beekeeping
Presenter: Dr. Clint Walker, Walker Honey Farm LLC
Benefit Auction to Follow | Manager: OSU Honey Bee Lab

Sunday, November 8

DAYTIME EVENTS
Registration 7:30 AM
Mead Workshop 8:30 AM–10:00 AM
Director: Andrew Schwab, Maker of Mead
This mead making class will teach you everything you need to know to make great-tasting mead at home. Andrew will discuss the importance of sanitation and demonstrate how to properly use all the necessary equipment. By making mead during the class, you will be able to see each step. He will discuss the ingredients and chemicals used, as well as some of the basics of fermentation. The class will end with a question and answer period, and also a tasting. Meet in the Education Center.
Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab (see Saturday, page 5) 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
Lab Members: Jared Jorgensen and Hannah Lucas, Honey Bee Lab, Oregon State University
Lunch with the Queen Breeders (Preregistration required) NOON
Moderator: Jordan Dimock, J & TD Apiaries
This year, in keeping with the spirit of our mission of pooling resources to facilitate the breeding of Queens adapted to our Pacific Northwest botanical and climatic cycles, our panel includes and is moderated by Pacific Northwest Queen Breeders. The discussion will be a boon to everyone interested in queens reared in the Pacific Northwest. The panelists are: Glen Andresen, John Jacob, Dr. Lynn Royce, and Tim Wessels.

GENERAL SESSION
Welcome: Paul Andersen, President, Oregon State Beekeepers Association 8:15 AM
Wax Waxing Eloquent 8:30 AM
Presenter: George Hansen, Foothills Honey Company
George will provide a short history of beeswax along with a discussion of the traditional and modern uses of beeswax in medicine, manufacturing, and art.
According to research done by Randy Oliver of scientificbeekeeping.com and published in the American Bee Journal in August and September 2014, Ultra Bee Patties produced results statistically equal to those of natural pollen!

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According to research done by Randy Oliver of scientificbeekeeping.com and published in the American Bee Journal in August and September 2014, Ultra Bee Patties produced results statistically equal to those of natural pollen!

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**Beekeeping Mistakes, Lessons Learned**  
*Presenter: Jay Miller, 2J Honey Farms*  
9:15 AM

**Understanding Bee Biology Over the Course of a Season**  
*Presenter: Randy Oliver, ScientificBeekeeping.com*  
By acquiring a better understanding of the biology of bees, nutrition, parasites, and pathogens over the course of the season, and by learning to “read the combs,” the beekeeper can then make better-informed management decisions adapted to his/her particular situation.

**Pests, Pathogens, and Poor Nutrition: Understanding and Mitigating**  
*Presenter: Dr. Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University*  
Ramesh will discuss some ongoing and completed research projects at Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab, including (1) pests and pathogens (*Varroa* and *Nosema*) and (2) honey bee nutrition. Further, he will provide information on how the current research findings could be potentially used by beekeepers to mitigate pest, pathogen, and nutrition problems in their colonies.

**Package & Queen Production**  
*Presenter: Pat Heitkam, Heitkams' Honey Bees*  
Pat will review his family’s thirty-plus years in the Bee Industry: what it is like to be a queen producer, the many changes and challenges to beekeeping, and the friends and associations they’ve made along the way. He will also emphasize the importance of sharing experiences for the good of the industry.

**Effects of a Neonicotinoid Insecticide on Honey Bee Health and Physiology**  
*Presenter: Stephanie Parreira, Oregon State University*  
Neonicotinoid insecticides have come under intense scrutiny for their potential impacts on bee health, and have become the main focus of honey bee toxicological research. However, despite the growing knowledge base on the effects of these chemicals, we still know very little about how they affect honey bee colonies in the long term, as well as how they interact with other pesticides and pathogens. Thus far, all published literature on the effects of neonicotinoids has focused on the effects of these chemicals when they are present solely in pollen or sugar syrup, and have not captured effects on bees when they are present in both resources. Here, Stephanie will discuss the results of a laboratory experiment that investigates the effects of a widely used neonicotinoid—imidacloprid—at sublethal levels in both the pollen and carbohydrate diets, on honey bee survival and physiology.

**Maximizing Honey Production**  
*Presenter: Dr. Clint Walker, Walker Honey Farm LLC*  
Clint will attempt a full examination of maximizing profit—not merely production—derived from honey on a per hive basis. He will consider floral sources, apiary site selection, optimal colony populations, and strategies for peaking colonies for flows, as well as the often overlooked concepts of mid-crop harvesting and foraging density issues such as optimal apiary spacing and hive count per apiary. Clint will also create a sample pollen and nectar calendar and discuss its use as a vital tool of a comprehensive honey production strategy. He will compare and contrast migratory, sedentary, and semi-sedentary beekeeping with special attention to efficiency of inputs. At the conclusion, he hopes that all attendees are fully equipped to make good honey production decisions in Central Texas . . . or any locale.

**Closing**  
*Paul Andersen, President, Oregon State Beekeepers Association*  
3:45 PM

**Adjourn**  
4:00 PM
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## Oregon State Beekeepers Association
### 2015 Fall Conference
#### Agenda
*(please see page 2 for specific event locations)*

### Friday, November 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Break – Deadline for Submitting Entries in Honey Show</td>
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<td>Carolyn Breece, Oregon State University</td>
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<td>Nick VanCalcar, VanCalcar Apiaries Inc</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Adjourn/Thank you for turning in an evaluation form (please!)</strong></td>
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3:45 pm
swarm FunDamentals
Karessa Torgerson, eas masTer BeeKeeper

4:30 pm–5:45 pm
osBa general memBership meeTing

6:00 pm
social evenT

7:00 pm
BanqueT (preregisTraTion required)
Keynote: GettinG stunG—wisDom i Have Been exposeD to wHilst BeeKeepinG
dr. clinT WalKer, WalKer honey Farm
Benefit auction to Follow

Sunday, November 8

7:30 am
regisTraTion

8:15 am
welcome
paul andersen, osBa presidenT

8:30 am
wax waxinG eloquent
george hansen, FooThills honey company

9:15 am
BeeKeepinG mistaKes, lessons learneD
Jay miller, 2J honey Farms

8:30 am–10:00 am
meaD worKsHop (concurrenT)
andreW schWaB, maKer oF mead

10:00 am
BreaK

10:15 am
unDerstaninG Bee BioloGy over tHe course oF a season
randy oliver, scienTiFicBeeKeeping.com

11:00 am
pests, patHoGens, anD poor nutrition: unDerstaninG anD mitiGatinG
dr. ramesh sagili, oregon sTaTe universiTy

11:45 am
BreaK

noon
cascaDia queen BreeDers luncHeon (preregisTraTion required)
panel oF norThWesT queen producers
Jordan dimocK, J & Td apiaries, moderaTor

1:15 pm
pacKaGe & queen proDuction
paT heiTKam, heiTKams' honey Bees

2:00 pm
eFFects oF a neonicotinoiD insecticiDe on Honey Bee HealtH anD pHysioloGy
Stephanie parreira, oregon sTaTe universiTy

2:45 pm
BreaK

3:00 pm
maximizinG Honey proDuction
dr. clinT WalKer, WalKer honey Farm

3:45 pm
closinG
paul andersen, osBa presidenT

4:00 pm
adJourn/
ThanK you For
Turning in an evaluaTion Form (please!

Conference Presenters

Presenters

Peter Berthelsen, Director of Habitat Partnerships, Pheasants Forever Inc, has an MS degree in wildlife science from Texas Tech University as well as a BS degree from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. In his current role, he works with the organization and its staff to develop and expand partnerships that help deliver the organization’s mission. An organizational priority is to pursue opportunities that positively impact the establishment of high-quality habitat for pollinator species. He received the 2014 Hoopingarner Award, presented by the American Beekeeping Federation.

Carolyn Breece is a research assistant at the Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab (Go Beavs!). She has a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Oregon (Go Ducks!) and a master’s in forestry from Northern Arizona University. She is also a committee member, Journey student, and mentor for the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. This year, as a Journey student, she learned how to properly label her honey (Honey, I Love You!) for selling to her neighbors!

Moderator of the Cascadia Queen Breeders Luncheon Panel, Jordan Dimock is well known to members of OSBA for his active OSBA participation for many years. Jordan is a commercial beekeeper from Nyssa who raises about 5,000 queens a year. Panelists are: (1) Glen Andresen, who has been keeping bees for twenty-five years. Glen is well known in the Portland area for his beekeeping and his gardening show, “The Dirtbag,” which airs monthly on KBOO 90.7 FM. (2) John Jacob, a well-known queen breeder from Rogue River. John is the founder of Old Sol Bees, a family-run business that has striven to promote sustainable agriculture and a healthy environment since its inception in 1997. (3) Dr. Lynn Royce, who performed insect identification in the Entomology Department at Oregon State University. Upon retirement, Lynn ran her own queen-breeding operation outside of Corvallis from 2004 to 2012. (4) Tim Wessels, who learned about beekeeping from his grandfather as a boy. Upon retirement, Tim jumped into it with both feet. Both Lynn and John are well known to many OSBA members for their active participation in our organization. Glen and Tim formed Bridgetown Bees in 2011 and raised 100 queens this year without chemical treatment.

George Hansen transformed a hobby beekeeping operation starting from a few swarms and retrieved nuisance hives to now running 5,000-plus colonies in three states. Sons Matt and Joe are incrementally taking control of the business as George moves towards an as-yet-undefined retirement. George actively promotes the industry’s interests through the American Beekeeping Federation, National Honey Board, national Honey Bee Health Coalition, and the Oregon Governor’s Task Force on Pollinator Health. For twenty years, he has hosted an annual Bee Day at the Foothills Honey Company home site.
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1-800-548-8440  www.westernbee.com
Pat Heitkam started beekeeping in 1976 in Santa Cruz, California. In 1979, the family moved to Orland with the total of 300 hives and a 20-acre apple orchard. Fast forward to 2015, they now have 6,000 hives and 20 acres with no trees. So much for planning. Pat and his son Russell have a queen and pollination business. He’s very thankful for the life beekeeping has brought him. Pat is particularly appreciative of their customers (friends) and employees who’ve helped make their lives so enjoyable and full.

The J. M. Smucker Company offered Rufus LaLone a position while he was still writing his thesis in the Entomology Department at Oregon State University, and he’s been at Smucker’s thirty-seven years this spring. Along with management responsibilities, he travels across North America presenting environmentally sound management programs for insect control from “farm to table.” Since the early part of his scientific career, Rufus has been an advocate for the practical application of meteorology in the life sciences. The Council of the American Meteorological Society elected him as a full member of the Society in 2005.

Jay Miller is a fourth-generation beekeeper from Blackfoot, Idaho, proof that “man” does not evolve, but contends. Through much of his life, his father Neil had him either in the bees or packing honey. Beginning in 1981, Jay ran the honey packing end of Miller’s Honey Farms Inc in Idaho, and then he spent five years buying and selling honey in Florida under the name of Power’s Honey. In 1996, Jay along with his older brother John purchased Miller’s Honey Farms, a 7,000-hive operation, from their father. In January 2008, Jay and his son-in-law Brody Tomazin left Miller’s Honey Farms and started 2J Honey Farms.

Randy Oliver (www.ScientificBeekeeping.com) owns and operates a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Grass Valley in Northern California. He and his two sons manage about 1,000 colonies for migratory pollination, and produce queens, nucs, and honey. He has over forty years of practical beekeeping experience, with BS and MS degrees in the biological sciences. Randy researches, analyzes, and digests beekeeping information from all over the world to broaden his depth of understanding and knowledge as well as to develop and share practical solutions to many of today’s beekeeping problems.

Stephanie Parreira is an MS student with Dr. Ramesh Sagili at Oregon State University. She earned a BA in environmental studies at Sonoma State University, where her work included marine and seabird ecology, invasive plants, and native pollinators of vernal pool flowers. She came to OSU to research the long-term and interactive impacts of neonicotinoid insecticides on honey bee colonies. Stephanie aims to build a better public understanding of issues surrounding both pollinator declines and pesticide use, and hopes to some day use her scientific knowledge to shape agricultural practices and public policy.
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Dr. Ramesh Sagili is a honey bee research and extension faculty in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University, with degrees from Texas A&M University and A.P. Agricultural University, India. His appointment also includes extension; hence, he works closely with both beekeepers and producers. His primary research focus is honey bee health, nutrition, and pollination, and his goal is to establish a vibrant and dynamic honey bee research and extension program at OSU. He initiated creation of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program in 2010 and chaired the Governor’s Task Force on Pollinator Health in 2014.

Andrew Schwab is a life-long, second-generation beekeeper. Having grown up in the honey-producing state of North Dakota, Andrew started making mead about ten years ago. In his search of that perfect mead, he has garnered numerous awards from national mead competitions along the way.

Ellen Topitzhofer is part of the Pacific Northwest Tech Transfer Team, which operates out of Oregon State University. She works with migratory beekeepers in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington to monitor colony health and gather pesticide exposure information from diverse cropping systems. Ellen received a BS degree from the University of Minnesota, and recently, an MS degree from Oregon State University, where she studied honey bee nutrition. She is also a volunteer mentor for the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program and enjoys teaching others about the joy of beekeeping.

Karessa Torgerson is an EAS Master Beekeeper, co-founder of Nectar Bee Supply, and a board member for Tree Hive Bees. She is a committee member for the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program and teaches and mentors for program participants. She previously served as officer of outreach and education for the Linn-Benton Beekeepers Association. She enjoys working with both new and seasoned beekeepers to create healthy, thriving colonies.

Thom Trusewicz has been a hobbyist beekeeper over the last fifteen years. He teaches an annual beekeeping class for beginners at Clatsop Community College every winter and at the Oregon State Beekeepers Association fall conference. Thom does several presentations on beekeeping and pollination to agricultural and service organizations and garden shops every year all over the Pacific Northwest. He is also a mentor in the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. Currently his apiary, Beehaven Farm, is dedicated to producing chemical-free honey and wax products.

Alan Turanski is a second-generation beekeeper and life-long lover of honey bees. At age ten he harvested, extracted, and bottled 160 pounds of his own original Alan’s Honey. Today he is president of GloryBee and processes more than 10 million pounds of honey a year, including one of the country’s largest supplies of Non-GMO Project Verified Honeys. Alan earned a BA in business administration from Seattle Pacific University and enjoys passing his love for honey bees on to his children, thus keeping the family tradition alive.
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Dr. Clint Walker has been co-owner with his wife, Janice Glisson Walker, of Walker Honey Farm LLC (WalkerHoneyFarm.com) since 1994, where they are involved in honey production, honey packing, retail store, and wholesale grocery and ingredients. In addition, they have been co-owners of Dancing Bee Winery LLC (DancingBeeWinery.com) since 2011, with mead and grape wines, a tasting room, a vineyard, and wholesale. They have two sons, Clinton and Jonathan. Clint has served beekeeping through such avenues as the Texas Beekeepers Association, American Beekeeping Federation, and National Honey Board.

Jared Jorgensen attended Oregon State University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in agricultural science. He has worked in the OSU Honey Bee Lab for a year and a half, and has been beekeeping for about five years.

Hannah Lucas was a free-range child, raised on a farm in the Willamette Valley. She went north to Washington for most of her schooling, including an MS in biology. Hannah’s love for bees developed relatively late in life, but once it did, she began to describe her ideal job as one that allowed her to use both her molecular biology education and field biology experience to investigate and ameliorate the problems faced by honey bees and their keepers these days. Naturally, she is very happy to be working in Dr. Ramesh Sagili’s Honey Bee Lab at Oregon State University.
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