



The Bee Line

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July 2021

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Rearing Queens in Pollination

Shelley Hoover, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta



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Image above: Bees are the bee's knees!

There are as many reasons to rear your own queen bees as there are to become a beekeeper in the first place—some beekeepers rear queens to save money, some to gain a specific suite of genetic traits such as in survivor or local stocks, some rear their own queens to avoid the risks associated with shipping, and some beekeepers rear their own queens for pure enjoyment. In Canada, we import approximately 250,000 honey bee queens annually, with the majority coming from California and Hawaii between March and June (with fewer arriving later in July and August). Not all beekeepers rely on imported queens however; many rear some or all of their own during the active beekeeping season. In Alberta, queen rearing can start in May, although the spring weather is unreliable, and as I write this on 20 May, it is snowing.



2020 queen produced in a canola pollination yard.

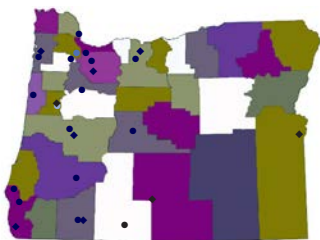
In southern Alberta, the major pollination event is canola seed production, which takes place on fields that are irrigated, and typically about 120 acres. These fields are supplied with 120–160 honey bee colonies, and it is not unusual for there to be thousands of colonies within a 5-mile radius. The canola bloom occurs in July, when colonies are large and have lots of mature drones, and colonies used for canola pollination are typically large double-brood chamber + multiple honey super units. In July, the region has low precipitation, low wind, and lots of sun. Combined with thousands of strong colonies, these make perfect queen mating conditions.

We typically see 85–90 percent success with our first round of cells, and, after adding a second round of cells to any queenless mating nucs, we expect about 95 percent success. In 2019 we sent some of our “canola queens” for analysis by the National Bee Diagnostics Lab at Beaverlodge, AB, and they reported our queens had on average 8.1 million stored sperm (range 5.7–10 million), with 85 percent viable in 2019 and 94 percent sperm viability in 2018. This exceeds what we would expect from most imported batches regardless of source.

We typically rear our queens and make splits in advance to “replace” the colonies we expect to lose over the following winter. In this way, we winter more colonies than we want to end up with, but we do not need to worry about making early splits when the weather is unreliable or purchasing packages, queens, or nucs in the spring. This was especially beneficial when access to packaged bees was cut off in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-related flight disruptions. We have used various equipment types to make these replacement splits, including full-sized Langstroth single deeps and Styrofoam nucs, and when wintered indoors we typically see greater than 90 percent survival.

Continued on page 14

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● AFFILIATED REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 7:00–8:30 PM, fourth Tuesday, virtually
President: Allen Engle—aengle@bendbroadband.com
Website: www.cobeekeeping.org

Columbia County Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, first Thursday, Deer Island
President: Linda Zahl—503.799.7073
Facebook Page: ColumbiaCountyOregonBeekeepers

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

Meets 6:15 PM, third Wednesday, Hood River
President: Jerry Frazier—jerry1.frazier@gmail.com
Website: gorgebeekeepers.org

Douglas County Bees

Meets 7:00 PM, first Wednesday, Roseburg
President: Robert Baune—541.863.9414
Website: www.douglascountybees.org

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Meets 9:00 AM, third/fourth Saturday, Klamath Falls
President: Lorena Corzatt—541.892.8402
Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org

Lane County Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, Eugene
President: Brian McGinley—56magoo@gmail.com
Website: www.lcbaor.org

Linn Benton Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Wednesday, Corvallis
President: Everett Kaser—everett@lbba.us
Website: www.lbba.us

Oregon Central Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, fourth Wednesday, Newport
President: Stu Willason—swill29w@gmail.com
Website: www.ccbaor.org

Oregon Prison Beekeepers

Program Manager: Chad.E.Naugle@doc.state.or.us

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, third Tuesday, Gold Beach
President: Jesse Fletcher—beekeeperscoastal@gmail.com

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, virtually
President: Doug Sieckmann—503.854.5417
Website: portlandmetrobeekeepers.org

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, first Wednesday, via Zoom
President: Cheryl Wright—cwright80@hotmail.com
Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, first Monday, Central Point
President: Risa Halpin—rhalpin906@gmail.com
Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Tillamook Beekeepers

Meets 1:00 PM, second Saturday, Tillamook
President: Brad York—dbradleyork@gmail.com
Website: www.tillamookbeekeepers.org

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, last Tuesday, virtually
President: Debby Garman—tualatinvalleybeekeepers@gmail.com
Website: tvbabees.org

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Salem
President: Richard Farrier—rfarrierfarms@gmail.com
Website: wvbahive.org

Message from the President

Greetings, fellow beekeepers.

I hope this message finds you well and your drought is not too severe. Here in Southern Oregon we have been exceptionally dry. The only upside to that is that the fuel loads around the valley are a little less this year, so hopefully the fire situation will not be as dire as with this year. Fires or not, it does look like another year of heavy feeding despite initially good spring flows. This will certainly add to our annual operating expenses and adds yet another challenge to our goals of keeping bees healthy.

Another headwind that has reared its head this year is finding labor. It's always a challenge to find good beekeeping help. Generally speaking, it takes a strong mind and a strong back to be a successful beekeeper. Many times when we do find these characteristics present in the same person they end up being afraid of bees. Where do I sign up for stings and long hours in the elements? It takes a rare level of care to be a beekeeper. This year the labor shortage is far from unique to our industry and seems pervasive across all sectors of the economy right now. Higher expenses resulting from big feed bills, expensive labor, and steep lumber costs are strong forces that will certainly impact what we need to charge for pollination services, as I mentioned last month.

Is there any good news in the beekeeping world? The answer is a resounding yes, thanks once again to research. Some of you may recall that years ago some research was being done with a strain of *Metarhizium* fungus to control Varroa. This is an entomopathogenic fungus, essentially a mold that eats insects and mites. Initially the fungus worked well to attack Varroa in the lab, but could not be successfully established in honey bee colonies. This is a perfect case of, if you at first don't succeed, try again. From a recent paper published by the team at Washington State University in the journal *Nature*: "Using a combination of traditional selection and directed evolution techniques developed for this system, new strains of *Metarhizium brunneum* were created that survived, germinated, and grew better at bee hive temperatures (35°C). Field tests with full-sized honey bee colonies confirmed that the new strain JH1078 is more virulent against Varroa mites and controls the pest comparable to current treatments. These results indicate that entomopathogenic fungi are evolutionarily labile and capable of playing a larger role in modern pest management practices."

For those of you who would like to read the full Article in *Nature*, it can be found at: www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-89811-2. This is a profound breakthrough and could have a huge impact on our industry. Other strains of *Metarhizium* have been very successfully deployed in the horticultural industry as a form of organic biological pest control. This is a huge breakthrough.

I know I probably sound like a broken record, but once again we can clearly see that honey bee research saves the day. As innumerable challenges mount, it will be research that helps us rise to the occasion. There are so many seen and unseen risks to our bees that investment in research will pay huge dividends for all of us, including anyone who produces or eats food. There are a lot of stakeholders in the outcomes for pollinators. Please like, share, and donate when our crowdfunding campaign launches. We will have nice thank you gifts at each donation level, and every donation is tax deductible. The more eyes we can get on the campaign, the better, especially from nonbeekeepers. Anybody who eats food is invested in the outcome of the plight of honey bees and beekeepers, so please reach out to friends, family, and coworkers. Even small donations across a wide cross section of people will have big impacts as a whole.

Speaking of outcomes, at the board meeting in April, we planned to take up an old OSBA tradition and have a summer picnic on August 21, and we are really excited about it. Stay tuned for final details about time and location. With any luck it will be held at Willamette Mission State Park. It will be really nice to see some faces in person and not across a Zoom screen. We are really looking forward to enjoying some good food and comradery as we begin to celebrate our one hundredth year in existence as an organization. We have survived

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a lot together, and considering the past year there is so much meaning in the opportunity we have in front of us to meet in person for our Centennial Fall Conference. Beekeepers are pretty amazing, and I couldn't think of a more able and fun group to embark on the next one hundred years with.

Please be careful with those smokers—it's hot and dry out there—and try and avoid opening those hives if it is above 94°F outside. Remember, brood incubates at 94°F, and exposure to extreme temperatures is very hard on both bees and beekeepers. Stay cool!

John Jacob

The Oregon State Fair is “ON”!

The good news is that the Oregon State Fair will be open this year! According to Oregon State Fair management, “it is safe to say the fair is on.” They are officially waiting to announce it while waiting for Oregon to be 70 percent vaccinated, but the “powers that be” say the fair will be open.



Marjie Ehry (left) and Bonnie King working the 2019 Oregon State Fair.

In the meantime, planning for the 2021 OSBA booth is underway. After a year off due to Covid, fairgoers are going to be very enthusiastic.

For years, our booth has been one of the top draws in the Creative Living Building, and I expect it to be even more popular in 2021 as Oregonians celebrate the ability to get out and about.

The Oregon State Fair is open for 11 days, August 27–September 6, 2021. We will set up the booth August 24–26 and break down September 7. Volunteers are needed for set up, break down, daily booth positions, observation hive coordinator, to wear the honey bear costume, and more! Free passes and parking passes for all volunteers. Please let me know if you're interested. A sign-up sheet will be available online in July.



From set up to break down, there will be ample opportunities to get in on the fun.

As for Covid precautions, it is possible that there may be a mask mandate of some kind, especially inside the buildings. They say they will comply with whatever the Governor says.



This could be you this year!

Recently, Governor Brown said that “all mandates, including distancing and masks will be eliminated . . . when we reach the 70 percent mark.” So, the Oregon State Fair says, if that's the case, masks will not be required. Of course, there will be many people who choose to wear masks, but it will be their own choice.

More about the booth theme and details about contests and judging will be available next month. Please don't hesitate to contact me with ideas, information, or to volunteer. It is going to be a great summer and a great Oregon State Fair. Please be a part of it!

Contact Bonnie King at: BonJKing@gmail.com.

Bonnie King
Chair, OSBA Fairs and Exhibits

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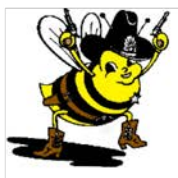
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Opportunity to Understand Honey Bee Swarm Biology via Participatory Research/Citizen Science

Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University, Honey Bee Lab

Honey Bee Swarm Biology

Honey bee swarms are fascinating. Have you ever wondered what percentage of worker bees leave the parental hive during a swarm?

You have probably read in bee books or a couple of journal articles that about 50 percent of the worker bees will swarm along with the old queen to establish a new nest. One study published in 2012 (Rangel and Seeley, *Insectes Sociaux* 59, 453–462), suggests that 75 percent of worker bees leave in a swarm. The percentage of worker bees leaving in a swarm could vary depending on the time of the year (April, May, June, or July) and a few other factors.

We (Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab) are interested in exploring this interesting and not so well understood aspect of swarm biology with the help of citizen scientists (our passionate beekeepers) by examining as many swarms as possible. If you would like to be a part of this research either this year or next year (2022), then please read the study process in the following paragraphs.

Know a Blueberry Grower? Have Them Fill Out this Survey!

Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon State University, Pollinator Health Extension

Oregon State University is part of an exciting new national collaborative blueberry pollination project. The goal of the project is to give growers better tools for meeting their pollination needs by using the latest in forecasting technology and up-to-date information on the different pollination needs of new cultivars. But there is also a lot in the project that responds to concerns expressed by many of you around blueberry pollination.

For example, we just completed the first season of research looking into the placement of colonies around fields and seeing if the practice of spreading colonies around the field leads to better pollination, and/or higher pesticide exposure to your colonies.

The project is taking place in Oregon, but also Washington, Michigan, and Florida, and led by Rufus Isaacs. You'll hear more about this USDA project in coming years. We need your help as we get rolling with this project!

For those of you who do blueberry pollination, encourage your growers to complete the following online survey:

wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PqEOz2ETXI43Ns.

The survey will get us some great information that will help

Study Process/Method

If you witness a low-hanging swarm that can be easily accessed and captured without any risk/hazard, and you also know for sure the source of that swarm (parental hive), then you can be a part of this study. Once the swarm is settled on a branch or other substrate, that swarm needs to be hived carefully in a single story hive with eight or ten frames (frames can be empty or with some honey and pollen). Then the worker bee population should be estimated in both the captured swarm (in the single story hive) and the parental hive (original hive that swarmed).

We can help you estimate the worker population by providing step-by-step instructions. Please call us (Ramesh Sagili: **979 739-9347** or 541 737-5460; Carolyn Breece: **541 224-3589**; Heike Williams: **541 740-7877**) if you happen to successfully capture a swarm and know the parental hive from which the swarm was issued.

Appreciate your help in increasing the body of knowledge regarding swarming.

improve hive health during blueberries. Whether the farm is 1 acre or 1,000 acres, a U-pick or large-scale commercial operation, send the link to your grower and ask them to complete the survey. There are 12 x \$50 gift certificates that they can win for completing the survey.

So, please send them the link and let them know that you would personally appreciate their taking the time to fill in the survey. Let them know it will help improve pollination and that you are excited about the project.



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Overwintering Honey Bee Colony Losses for 2020–2021

Ramesh Sagili and Dewey M. Caron

Overwintering colony losses of small-scale Oregon backyard beekeepers were lower this past winter after encountering disastrous colony loss level of 48 percent two years ago and 38 percent last winter. There was a total of 328 Oregon small-scale beekeeper respondents (26 more respondents than last year) and 163 Washington respondents (30 more than last year) who completed the surveys.

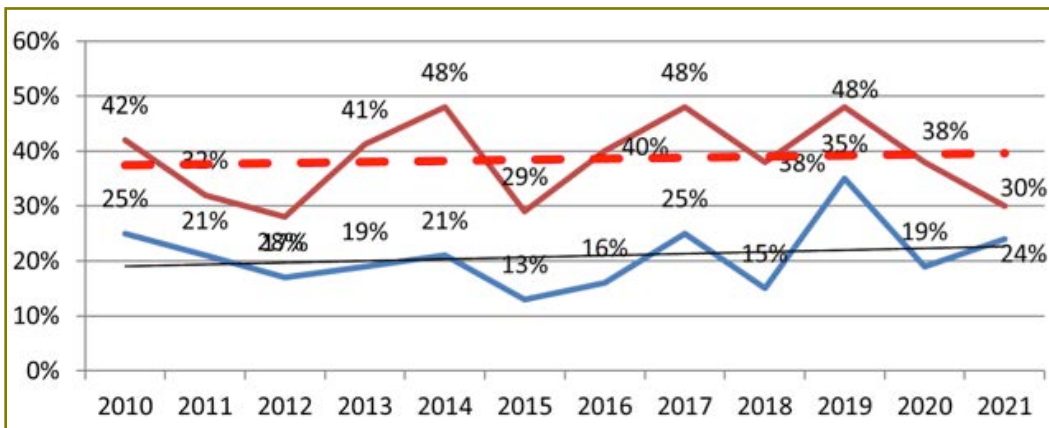
The average loss levels were 35 percent for Oregon and 37 percent for Washington beekeepers. The results of our 12th

season of Oregon hobbyist/backyard beekeeper surveys are posted at: www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com. The state and individual association colony losses and losses by colony management will be added to the [pnwhoneybeesurvey](http://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com) website as available.

A different (paper) survey regarding winter losses was mailed to the Pacific Northwest semi-commercial (50–500 colonies) and commercial beekeepers (500+ colonies) from Oregon State University. Four Oregon commercial beekeepers and six semi-commercial beekeepers, managing approximately

30 percent of the estimated total number of colonies in the state, reported an average overwintering loss of 24 percent. Interestingly this year, the colony loss of the six semi-commercial (sideline) beekeepers (average colony number = 164) was 21 percent and losses of the commercial beekeepers (average colony number = 6,298) were slightly higher at 24 percent. The

normal trend is that commercial beekeeper losses are lowest followed by sideline, then small-scale beekeepers with 10+ colonies (this year 28 percent, average 15 colonies/individual) and finally the backyard beekeepers (average 3 colonies) with heaviest losses (35 percent).



Small scale (backyard) beekeeper losses have ranged from six to 20 percentage points greater when compared to colony losses of commercial/semi-commercial beekeepers over the last 12 years, as shown in the Figure [center of page]. The twelve-year average backyard beekeeper colony loss = 40 percent (top solid line), and the 12-year commercial/semi-commercial colony loss = 21 percent (bottom solid line). Dashed lines are loss trends of both groups.

The twelve-year average backyard beekeeper colony loss = 40 percent (top solid line), and the 12-year commercial/semi-commercial colony loss = 21 percent (bottom solid line). Dashed lines are loss trends of both groups.

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BEEKEEPER EVENTS

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August 7: Oregon Coast Honey Lovers Festival. Yachats Commons. *Information:* www.facebook.com/Oregon-Coast-Honey-Lovers-Festival-107547000840233.

August 11–13: Eastern Apicultural Society 66th Annual Short Course and Conference, Paroquet Springs Conference Centre, Shepherdsville, KY. *Information:* www.easternapiculture.org.

August 21: National Honey Bee Day.

August 23–27: Oregon Bee Atlas 2021 Beginner Bee School. Oregon State University. Corvallis. *Information:* extension.oregonstate.edu/program/all/bee-atlas/events. Dates may change.

August 27–September 6: Oregon State Fair. *Information:* <https://oregonstatefair.org/>. See page 5.

October 2–3: Washington State Beekeepers Association 2021 JamborBEE Conference. *Information:* wasba.org/events/conference-info.

October 22–24. OSBA 2021 Fall Conference, when we hope again to meet in Florence. *Updates:* orsba.org/osba-fall-conference.

November 16–18: California State Beekeepers Association Convention 2021. *Information:* www.californiastatebeekeepers.com/annual-convention.



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Keeping Bees in July

Todd Balsiger

Greetings, fellow beekeepers.

I learned a few important things last year regarding Varroa mites.

Last year I waited too long before I did my 1st (yep, first) Varroa sample for 2020: The 22nd of August.

I had bees at four locations. Three of these locations had low counts, but one location inexplicably—even though the bees were managed the same—had counts nearly five times higher than the average of the other three locations. This is when I learned that all locations are not the same. I'm surprised that Randy Oliver hasn't come up with an equation to explain it. The variables are bee density and percentage of untreated hives. I belatedly discovered via Google Maps that my high Varroa mite apiary had 300 commercial hives parked 1 mile away. I think this scenario may be common. If you recall last year, Carolyn Breece wrote about the need to do follow-up checks after treatments and to continue to monitor and treat again if necessary. I think this is how it is for all of us now.

I'm not waiting until the 22nd of August this year. It is easier to control a burgeoning mite population than one that has gone ballistic. This has been an unprecedented year—for my bees, swarming peaked Tax Day, April 15. Given the long brood year, ubiquitous swarming and undoubtedly a higher number of untreated feral hives, and the prospect of an early dearth, I think Varroa will make a strong showing this year.

I'm not waiting. I may very well do my first major assault on

Varroa at the end of July (or earlier) instead of at the end of August. Any hive not pulling its weight will be folded up and its resources most likely allocated to hives in need. My Varroa campaign did not end in August last year, nor when the fall rains came. It continued on.

Last year during our Zoom conference someone asked how many times can you treat with oxalic in the fall? I can tell you that I did three oxalic vaporations during late fall and winter at ½ teaspoon per dose: One in October, one in November, and one around the first of the year.

Before I treated, I'd first do a sample treatment with hives on screen bottom boards to check for Varroa mite fall. Based on what I saw would be my justification for treatment. My bees were exceptionally strong for almonds and beyond. No deleterious effects that I observed. But there are no guarantees. Viruses evolve. Hope for the best, put in the work, and maybe the bees will come out on top.

I hope that the lion's share of OSBA beekeepers got their Covid shots. Not getting the vaccine is a bit like thinking you don't need to treat for Varroa. As beekeepers, we should be very cognizant of the hazard of viruses.

I'm heartened to learn that we may have another OSBA picnic. The last one I attended was about 40 years ago. I think it may have been at Silver Falls Park? It was a beautiful day. I was tagging along with my grandparents.

Good memories.

Citizen Scientist Finds First 2021 Asian Giant Hornet in US

An individual insect identified as an Asian giant hornet, *Vespa mandarinia*, has been found in Marysville, near Seattle. It's not related to other regional finds, nor has a population been found. The find occurred because someone was paying attention. As noted in the Washington State Department of Agriculture press release:

“This new report continues to underscore how important public reporting is for all suspected invasive species, but especially Asian giant hornet,” Sven Spichiger, WSDA managing entomologist said. “We'll now be setting traps in the area and encouraging citizen scientists to trap in Snohomish and King counties. None of this would have happened without an alert resident taking the time to

snap a photo and submit a report.”

In 2020, half of the confirmed Asian giant hornet sightings in Washington and all of the confirmed sightings in Canada came from the public. Every suspected sighting in Washington State should be reported to the Washington State Department of Agriculture online at agr.wa.gov/hornets, by emailing hornets@agr.wa.gov, or calling 1-800-443-6684. Suspected sightings in other areas should be reported to the state or province where a suspected hornet was observed.

To view the full press release (with video link): agr.wa.gov/about-wsda/news-and-media-relations/news-releases?article=32455.

New Resource for Educators

Are you an educator or a beekeeper planning to visit a classroom this fall? A new resource, **Explore Oregon Bees**, a bee-themed nutrition and garden environmental education activity packet developed at Oregon State University by the Oregon Bee Project and Food Hero, is now available! The content is said to be best aligned for 4th graders. Visit: foodhero.org/bees.

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representative

North Coast

You can have too much of a good thing. Weather on the coast has been beautiful. Bees and beekeepers are loving it. Flowers are loving it. Tourists are loving it. But in the back of everyone's mind are the memories of last year's forest fires, and you could almost hear the collective sigh of relief around town when we finally got a little bit of rain. But hives are flourishing right now and beekeepers are facing the possibility of actually working with one another face-to-(6 feet) face again.

Oregon Central Coast Beekeepers will be kicking off their first in-person meeting with a demonstration of candle and soap making. Tillamook Beekeepers have begun meeting in person outside at Claire's place. This month they will be talking about making splits and adding new queens. And all of us will be looking forward to a few more rainy days.

Kathy Cope

Regional Associations

Central Oregon Beekeepers

In central Oregon, our humidity is a bit lower than many parts of Oregon. Hence the temperature swings are a good deal greater. In June, we went from several days of high 90's to several weeks of 40's and 50's (with occasional low 30's at night) and drizzle and maybe even a slight freeze.

After a spectacular start, the swarm season turned out to be relatively average. It will be interesting to hear from members how well the replacement queens mated, with the extended periods of cold rainy weather.

Even with the drizzle (actually not much water, just wet clouds), we're still in a severe drought. In town, there is still plenty of water, so the forage is looking good. In the rural areas, we had good early blooms of the bitter brush, the sulfur buckwheat, and the Oregon sunshine. The earlier weeds (dandelions and others along irrigation canals), however, seemed to be somewhat short-lived. It seems to foreshadow some longer dearths later in the summer though.

It looks like our first in-person meeting in a year and a half will occur this month. It's going to be awesome, and a little bit odd feeling. We're working hard to provide both for those who are vaccinated and those who are still remaining conservatively safe with meetings and larger numbers. We wish everyone continuing good health.

In June, we had a wonderful discussion about defensive honey bee colonies, including things to think about from an "area" point of view. Also, Andony Melathopoulos from OSU talked

about native bees and their interactions with honey bees. Community members as well as garden organizations were invited. Central Oregon Beekeepers, through the support of a very generous local grant, is donating pollinator-friendly wildflower seeds to anyone who will plant them.

Enjoy your summer.

Allen Engle

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

One thing that is certain the Columbia Gorge during the spring months—it is a challenge. Past years have frustrated the bees with colder temperature and moisture. This season found a lack of moisture, but cold temps. Last year our area experienced an abundance of swarms early (May), whilst this season gave way to late-season swarms in June. Funny how us humans, with a cranium housing a brain, seem to be bewildered by an insect whose brain is significantly smaller. The better news is our honey season seems to be improved from last year. The mite situation also, thus far, appears to be a mild one. But time will have to play out to see what the remainder of the season brings about. Our association's membership continues to grow—exciting!

Our monthly meetings, third Wednesday of each month, will continue to be via Zoom. The association's meeting area is at the Hood River Extension, which has been shuttered. If I may speak for all beekeepers in the Gorge, we long to meet in person once again.

Jerry Frazier

Oregon Prison Beekeepers



Members of Coffee Creek Correctional Facility Beekeeper Team #8 receive Beginner's beekeeper certificates. Congratulations!

Chad Naugle

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Nectar flow has begun in Portland metro area. Honey supers are being put on, or have been for a few weeks. We have been gifted with good weather conditions, allowing for earlier than normal installation of honey supers. Association members who engage in local pollination services have been rewarded with strong hives already packing away ample amounts of capped honey. Those of us who are backyarders or hobbyists

are hoping for continued good conditions for our colonies to stay strong and healthy. Conversations with other association members who have sampled for mites have found loads pretty low, so far. Another sampling after nectar flow is in order, with treatments appropriate to control mite levels going into summer.

Swarm season has just about run its course for this season, but that never precludes honey bees from swarming in July. Watch your colonies after nectar flow. It is often a good time to make a split to prepare nucs for fall and overwintering.

The PMBA is still meeting virtually, and attendance has been solid at 65–75 participants. Our meetings tend to focus on what is happening with colonies during that particular month. Our May meeting featured Andony Melathopoulos, Pollinator Health Extension Specialist with Oregon State University, presenting “Brood Diseases 101.” Andony discussed and showed examples of American Foulbrood (AFB), European Foulbrood (EFB), Chalkbrood, and Sacbrood. As beekeepers, we all have a responsibility to be able to identify colony diseases or know where to go to get help to identify these diseases.

The upcoming topic for the June PMBA association meeting will be all about Varroa mites: their life cycle, diseases carried, sampling techniques, and treatments to control them. In addition, there will be Q & A and giveaways. It's one you won't want to miss. *Dave Schwartz*

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Being that we're past Solstice and Independence Day, we're officially deep into summer. I'm always taken aback a bit when I see a graph of the life cycle of a summer hive and realize that, as we humans are gearing up for our peak summer activity, the bees are beginning their slow glide into fall. It takes some attention to recognize their cycles are not quite in sync with ours. Our days leading into June have been a mixed bag of cool, warm, hot, and rain. As always, we're hoping for wonderful weather to complement blackberry blossoms and (selfishly for myself) linden tree blooms, which are in abundance in my neighborhood.

Our June meeting featured Dr. Ramesh Sagili, who talked about Varroa management. Our association has committed to continue Zoom meetings through the rest of this year, but we're going to start work parties at our association

apiary towards the end of July. The socialization will be so welcome! We're also looking forward to getting a detailed read-out of our honey bee survey results from Dr. Dewey Caron. Initial readouts were that our hive losses were fairly consistent with last year's results. Portland Urban Beekeepers wishes you all a fun-filled summer, and may your honey supers be filled early this year. *Jessica Anderson*

Tillamook Beekeepers

We hold our meetings on the second Saturday in Claire Moody's apiary. Business always comes first. We've sold 781 raffle tickets for a total of \$3,095 for the Tillamook Cheese Bee Hive which will be raffled at the county fair in August.

Proven Queens



Wooten's Queens & Bees, Inc., Steve Park Apiaries, Inc. & Wooters Bee Farms look forward to continuing to produce gentle, quality Park Italian queens with hygienic behavior and mite resistant traits that produce ample brood and large honey crops. Our continued relationship with the Bee Informed Partnership ensures we are selecting the highest quality Park Italian Queens that will be more tolerant of bee viruses, varroa mites, and nosema disease.

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We are so thrilled to have a full, normal county fair. Brad's been encouraging everyone to enter honey.

Our bank balance allows us to be creative. We will, of course, be increasing our donation to the OSU Honey Bee Lab this year. We have been talking about planting mature bee trees around the county. The Tillamook City Manager and the Parks Department are excited to have us do that. It has to pass the Beautification Committee but that shouldn't be a problem. They will actually do the planting, which we expect to be in the fall.

Another exciting decision is that we've decided to set up a lending library of bee suits! We'll buy multiple bee suits in all sizes and make them available on loan for members who want to share a look in the hive with grandkids, neighbors, or anyone interested.

The going-into-hives part of the meeting is so much fun and a great learning experience. We took several hives apart and also installed a swarm into its new home. *Claire Moody*

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Our TVBA area has had a very active April–June swarm season, and we've had a better window on it due to our new swarm-reporting system inspired by PUB's example. Thanks, PUB!! And thanks to our board members who worked hard and long to see the reporting system into being.

We're still doing board and membership meetings via Zoom for the immediate future, but have also been offering excellent hands-on, Covid-safe, small group field day sessions for newbie beekeepers.

We are thrilled with early data numbers from Dr. Dewey Caron's overwinter survival survey, as our big board push last year to educate members about Varroa mite testing and treating, with free equipment and tools provided to all who requested them, seems to have paid off in MUCH lower winter loss rates for our members. This may be a factor in our big swarm season! Best wishes to all you fellow beekeepers around the state for healthy bees and a great honey harvest this year. *Debby Garman*

Rearing Queens — Continued from page 1



2019 queen mating yard in a canola pollination yard—splits are awaiting their queen cell introduction!

Our approach is to: (1) Work with nature not against it—we rear and mate our queens under the ideal conditions, in the season they are inclined to produce drones and queen cells. (2) Rear and mate queens under the best conditions possible—we feed



2019 canola pollination yard with a few pallets of splits as a mating yard. Because of all the pollination sites in the region, there is a large drone source pool and strong competition to mate with our queens.

every colony at every step of the process, and we always ensure there are numerous well-fed drone source colonies. (3) Try to avoid stressing the queens at any stage—in this system I have described, we do not need to cage, bank, or ship our queens. The virgin emerges into the split that she will overwinter in and will stay there as the colony grows to full size, unless we need to use her to requeen a queenless colony.

We have found that rearing our own queens can fit into a pollination scenario, as it gives us better queens and higher colony survival. Most importantly, rearing our own queens makes us better beekeepers and is an enjoyable part of the art of beekeeping.

Note: Shelley Hoover presented “Raising Quality Queens in Pollination” during our 2020 Fall Conference.



Oregon State Beekeepers Association Membership Form

The **Oregon State Beekeepers Association** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in bees and beekeeping. Members do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. Membership includes the ongoing work of the organization on behalf of the honey bee and beekeeping, a vote in OSBA elections, swarm call listing, four free online classified ads per year, discounts on publications, and an annual directory and subscription to *The Bee Line*.

Please send check made payable to OSBA with a **completed form for each individual** to:

Oregon State Beekeepers Association, Membership
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd, Ste 517, Portland, Oregon 97206

Date: _____ New Member Membership Renewal

First Name: _____ **MI:** _____ **Last Name:** _____

Company name: _____

Type: Small scale (less than 25) Sideliner (25–300) Commercial (more than 300)

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone number: _____ **e-mail address:** _____

Newsletter: Please select version: Digital Print **County:** _____

Membership Directory: The OSBA respects the privacy of members. Please indicate contact information to be included in a directory mailed to OSBA members only:

Do not include contact information

Share all information **OR** Share: mailing address phone number e-mail address

Local group, if member: _____

Membership dues: \$40 per person (\$50 per person outside the US) \$ _____

Voluntary contribution(s):

General Fund \$ _____

Research Fund \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Note: To renew or join online, please visit:
orsba.org/membership

Thank you!



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. . . The world was really one bee yard, and the same rules work fine in both places. Don't be afraid, as no life-loving bee wants to sting you. Still, don't be an idiot; wear long sleeves and pants. Don't swat. Don't even think about swatting. If you feel angry, whistle. Anger agitates while whistling melts a bee's temper. Act like you know what you're doing, even if you don't. Above all, send the bees love. Every little thing wants to be loved.

~ Sue Monk Kidd

The Bee Line

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Annual subscriptions to the newsletter are included with membership.

Please send news about your bees and your experiences in keeping them, as well as events, corrections, comments, questions, photographs and stories, interviews, recipes, points of view—and ads/advertising—to: Rosanna Mattingly, *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com. It's your newsletter—we want to hear from you!

The next issue to be printed will be the **August** issue, 2021. The deadline for submitting copy is **July 10, 2021**. Please let me know if you find difficulties with the deadline so we can work out the space and timing for the material.

May all be well!

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