IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Beeswax 1
Executive Committee 2
President’s Message 3
USDA Grant to OSU 3
Keeping Bees in September 7
Conference Auction 7
Conference Registration 8
Conference Agenda 9
Conference Honey Show 11
Where to Stay in Florence 11
Beekeeper Events 12
Regional News 13
Membership Form 15

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
orsba.org
orsbawebmaster@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/
Oregon-State-Beekeepers-
Association-106259011502343

OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM
A Joint Venture of OSBA and the
Oregon State University Extension Service
info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org

Image above: As the bees gather the last of fall resources, may we all enjoy time for initial evaluations of the season and opportunities for ongoing learning. The 2021 Fall Conference (pages 8–9) awaits us!

None of Your Beeswax!

Matt Allen

Collecting, Rendering, and Using Your Beeswax

September is here, the honey season is finished, you’re spinning out the last few rounds in the extractor, and the bucket, or barrel, of cappings is starting to look pretty full. You step back, scratch your head, and think, “What am I ever going to do with these cappings?”

Beeswax is an amazing substance produced by rows of wax glands on the underside of the abdomen of middle-aged house bees. When the bees are well fed and their crop (honey stomach) remains full, the wax glands start pushing out tiny flakes of beeswax, reminiscent of trout scales, flaking off the underside of the bee’s abdomen. The bees chew these flakes and sculpt them, like clay, to build their comb and cappings. Depending on availability and location within the nest, fresh wax may be mixed with old wax or small amounts of propolis. For this reason, the cleanest, freshest wax, will always be found in the honeycomb caps. Other sources of wax may be scrapings of burr comb, the comb under the lid or between boxes, or from rendering old comb. I am continually astonished at how little wax is used to make a huge area of comb. My experience is for every barrel of honey produced (roughly 600 pounds), we reclaim not quite 10 pounds cappings wax. If I cycle 30-40 old junk combs through our solar-melter, it yields around a pound or so of wax.

Before your beeswax is very useful, it needs to be rendered. Rendering is the process of melting wax and separating it from impurities like honey, dirt, slumgum, nails, bits of wood . . . There are many ways to render beeswax, but generally they all involve some combination of heat, water, and filtration. Typically, heat to melt the wax comes from electric power, but occasionally solar power. Other sources may be used, but in any wax-melting situation, be exceedingly cautious regarding fire. Beeswax melts about 156°F. Usually, you want to use some kind of double boiler to ensure slow, even heat.

Simmering wax in a water bath is a good way to clean it. Honey mixes with the water; most dirt and slumgum sinks. When it cools, the wax and water separate and you are left with nice clean wax on top. We usually follow up our initial rendering with filtering to remove additional dust or particulate. At this point, you can pour your clean wax into molds to cool and use. We like stainless steel chafing dishes from a restaurant supply for our bulk molds.

Clean wax can be stored, sold, or melted again for use. Candle making, lubricant, woodworking, cosmetics: These are only a few of beeswax’s myriad uses. Beeswax can be used to coat thread for quilting or leatherwork. Mixed with oils, beeswax can be used to make butcher block oil or leather treatment. Beeswax with coconut oil (or meadowfoam butter if you want to stick with Oregon products) makes the base for exceptional hand salve or lip balm. And in its purest form, beeswax makes extraordinary candles. Beeswax, when properly prepared, burns brighter and warmer than paraffin or soy, does not drip, does not smoke, and smells amazing.

Making candles is a fairly simple task, but does require a bit of equipment and space. Absolutely cover your floors! Also, it is a good idea to have tools and pots dedicated to wax

Continued on page 11
OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OSBA OFFICERS

President
John Jacob—541.582.2337; oldsolbees@gmail.com

Vice President
Joe Maresh—503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com

Secretary
Karen Finley—541.753.4120; osba.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer
Joe Hansen—503.824.2265; osba.treasurer@gmail.com

Past President
Harry Vanderpool—503.399.3675; shallotman@yahoo.com

OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

North Coast
Kathy Cope—541.264.9222; beachwalkinlady@hotmail.com

South Coast
Mureen Walker—541.425.0535; mureen.walker.111@gmail.com

Columbia Basin
Bill Edwards—541.354.2223

Eastern Oregon
Jordan Dimock—541.372.2726

Portland Metro
Tom Cinquini—503.547.5386; tomcinquini@gmail.com

South Central Oregon
Christy VanRooyen—541.885.0959; vanrooyen.christy@gmail.com

Southwestern Oregon
Eric McEwen—541.415.5171; beettruehoneybees@gmail.com

North Willamette Valley
Steven Coffman—503.838.2981

South Willamette Valley
Tim Wydronek—541.740.4127; timwydronek@comcast.net

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—dbradleyyork@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
Greetings from Toronto, Canada!

With vaccines widely available and borders finally opening, it is nice to finally be able to safely travel again. We are all really looking forward to seeing everyone in person for our centennial conference this October 22–24 in Florence, Oregon. For those unable to meet in person, the recordings of the streamed conference will be available to all registrants until December 31, 2021, for the normal price of admission. We also look forward to launching our centennial crowdfunding campaign at that time and likely will run it for 6–12 months. The pandemic has been trying for everyone, and 2021 has proven to be a difficult fundraising environment with only about 40 percent of campaigns successfully meeting their goals. We hope that as the economy improves and benefits of the vaccines are fully realized we will find a more fertile environment moving forward to raise funds for the OSU Honey Bee Lab. Stay tuned for further updates.

Since my last message a lot has happened and much has been observed. For starters, as predicted, the Lake Oroville Dam has been shut down for power production due to historically low water levels. Nearly every reservoir in the Southwest is at, or near, record lows. The drought has become so severe that there has been a spike in almond acreage being removed. At the time of this writing, it is estimated that between 2 percent and 15 percent of bearing acreage will be removed in 2021. This is an ongoing and evolving situation, so we won’t know for sure for a while, but this could easily end up being 50,000 plus acres in the worst case scenario. Coupled with the fact that we are facing a La Niña weather pattern this winter, things could certainly get worse before they get better. This could make it much more difficult to raise prices to keep up with inflation in the prices of feed, fuel, and equipment. We are truly caught between a rock and a hard place.

On top of all this, we are experiencing the most severe fire season on record. This seems to have become the new normal with each year for at least 3 years, each year getting worse than the previous. Business as usual is clearly not an option. As I explained in my last message, we use a lot of water to produce electricity. Remember it takes 3,000–6,000 gallons to run just one 60-watt bulb 12 hours per day for a year. We have other options! There are many vested interests out there that will tell us otherwise, but renewable energy like wind and solar could allow us to save a lot of water for crops instead of wasting it on watts. The highest and best use for our strained reservoir system is for flood control and producing food. Even without our current megadrought, it will be challenging enough to feed the growing world population as soon as 2050. The naysayers will tell you that it can’t be done. Around the turn of the century in the 1990s the same thing was said to early auto manufacturers by the horse and buggy crowd. The Wright brothers heard the same “it can’t be done” story. The bottom line is that we will never succeed if we do not try. Energy storage technology is developing rapidly and will get even better if we continue to invest in it and the improvement of our grid architecture. In many cases, it is “old legacy” companies like PG&E that are the most resistant to change. Don’t forget this company has been the cause of many wildfires, including the one that destroyed the town of Paradise, California, in 2019 and then subsequently had to file Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Producing power from solar energy uses little to no water, and soil moisture retention under solar panels is increased by up to 90 percent. As it turns out, this is a great place to grow pollinator forage. I have personal experience doing this on four 10-megawatt solar sites. These sites are typically in the 80–100 acre range, and our bees do amazing at these locations. This is a huge opportunity because at-scale solar will save water for the production of the crops we rely on for pollination services and at the same time create valuable forage sites for the pollinators that feed the world. The term for this field of science is agrivoltaics: agriculture + photovoltaics. We are very lucky to have one of the world’s leading researchers in this field at OSU, and his name is Dr. Chad Higgins. I would strongly encourage all of you to check out his research. For an interesting read, check out this article, authored by Chad, Andony Melathopoulos, and others, about one of the agrivoltaic sites that we have bees on in Southern Oregon: www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-86756-4. Of particular interest is the number of native pollinators here far exceeded the number of honey bees by a huge margin.

Well, that is it for now, an evening in Toronto beckons. Make sure your mites are dead, and feed feed feed . . . especially protein so that we have plenty of bees in the spring.

New USDA Grant to OSU Honey Bee Lab

A new grant will allow Oregon State University researchers to study the nutritional value of more than 100 bee-pollinated crops, native plants, and commonly used ornamental plants, a project that could help scientists better understand the global decline of bee populations.
Partnering with Down to Earth Home, Garden & Gift to carry beekeeping supplies

Visit Down to Earth Home, Garden & Gift for your beekeeping supplies:

- Bee Brush
- J Hook Hive Tool
- Heavy Duty Jackets with Fencing Veil
- Gloves
- Plastic Frames & Foundation

You can also visit glorybee.com to purchase your beekeeping supplies!

1% of beekeeping sales is donated to fund critical honey bee health research. savethebee.org

GLORYBEE.COM | (800) 456-7923

WESTERN BEE SUPPLIES

**Traditional Hobby Kit** Includes:
- 2 Brood Chambers
- 20 Deep Frames and Plasticell
- 2 - 6 5/8 Supers
- 20 Shallow Frames and Plasticell
- Plastic Queen Excluder
- Pine Bottom Board
- Pine Cover
- Inner Cover

**Assembled:** $350 and **FREE SHIPPING**!

**Make it an ULTIMATE KIT!**

The Traditional Kit plus:
- Hooded Zipper Suit
- Lightweight Leather Gloves
- Hive Tool
- Division Board Feeder
- Wood-Bound Queen Excluder instead of plastic
- Smoker and Fuel
- First Lessons in Beekeeping Book

**Assembled:** $500 and **FREE SHIPPING**!

**Unassembled:** $40 and **FREE SHIPPING**!

Serving beekeepers worldwide since 1965.

PO Box 190
Polson, MT 59860

Call Toll-Free 833-533-1014
Order Online! www.westernbee.com

Free Shipping applies to those items denoted as qualifying for free shipping in your order of $100 or more in the contiguous U.S. Any other items will incur shipping charges. Other conditions may apply; see our online store’s homepage for details.
Chakrabarti, new assistant professor at Mississippi State University, to begin to fill that knowledge gap.

With the $500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, the team hopes to improve bee nutrition by building a database of macro- and micronutrients found in the flowering plants used in the study. Poor nutrition due to agricultural mono-cropping and loss of habitat is an important factor in bee declines and the researchers anticipate alleviating this problem by providing better forage choices for bees backed by science-based results.

In addition to beekeepers, land managers, conservation groups will benefit from the database. The public also will be able to use the information to choose the most nutritious plants for both native and managed bees.

With global decline in both native and honey bee populations and given the importance of honey bees for commercial pollination of hundreds of crops, choosing the best supplemental forage can help mitigate poor nutrition in bees. Well-nourished bees can also better withstand things that plague them like Varroa mites, pesticides, parasitoids, and loss of habitat.

“If you look at it from the human side, the healthier you are, the better you can fight off diseases, parasites and other health issues,” Sagili said. “With a better immune system, you’re stronger and more resilient. It’s the same with bees. Nutrition is their first line of defense against stressors.”

Optimal nutrition has been shown to enhance resistance to stressors and increase survival and longevity, according to Chakrabarti. Even though there has been much research done to determine the causes of honey bee decline, few studies have addressed the underlying problems of bee nutrition.

For the past few years there has been a significant movement to improve nutrition and increase habitat for bees and to provide better forage, Chakrabarti said. For farmers, it’s important to understand the nutrition contained in pollens from significant crops like almonds in California, a $7 billion industry that relies on honey bees for pollination.

“There are efforts geared toward farmers so that they can plant supplemental forage adjacent to their orchards or fields to provide the additional nutritional resources that bees need,” Sagili said. “Seventy-five percent of honey bee hives managed by beekeepers in the United States go to California’s Central Valley in February to pollinate the almonds, and they need forage before the almonds come into bloom. That’s a big, big problem. There might be some wild mustard or dandelion, but it’s really meager and there is no other source of pollen for bees.”

Beekeepers feed the honey bees with sugar syrup and protein supplements when natural forage is unavailable, which is not the optimal diet but can sustain bees for the short term.

The impacts of certain fungicides—called sterol biosynthesis inhibitors or SBI—will also be investigated to determine their effect on the availability of pollen sterol and bee health, Sagili said. Pollen sterols are a type of lipids that are required for development and growth of bees. Findings from examining the impacts of SBI fungicides on sterol availability in pollen will not only show how these widely used fungicides may affect bees, but also demonstrate for the first time if this group of fungicides could compromise the quality of pollen.

Sagili and Chakrabarti are looking for community scientists to help with the study. Those participating will be asked to collect about 50 honey bees with pollen loads for each plant species considered. A video that demonstrates the process of capturing honey bee foragers and collecting pollen loads from them is at: www.dropbox.com/s/ndzgd7zyr6unzpn/Sagili%20and%20Chakrabarti%20USDA%20Pollen%20Database%20%281%29.mp4?dl=0. If interested in participating, contact Sagili at 541-737-5460 or ramesh.sagili@oregonstate.edu, and Priya Chakrabarti at priyadarshini.chakrabarti@oregonstate.edu.
Olivarez Honey Bees, supports innovation and industry leaders who play key roles in beekeeping and sustainability of the industry. Albert Robertson is that leader, inventing the Saskatraz™ Queen Breeding Program in Saskatchewan Canada. OHB is partnering with Albert at our California location to produce Saskatraz™ Hybrid Queens. The Saskatraz™ Program was established with diverse genetics to enrich sustainable economic traits such as:

- Tolerance to Varroa Mites
- Overwintering
- Honey Production
- Gentle Temperament

Ultimately, we believe when you choose our queens, you are part of making these historic discoveries and carrying on the good Queen stock for planetary health.

Our Exclusive Saskatraz™ Hybrid Queen

Olivarez Honey Bees, supports innovation and industry leaders who play key roles in beekeeping and sustainability of the industry. Albert Robertson is that leader, inventing the Saskatraz™ Queen Breeding Program in Saskatchewan Canada. OHB is partnering with Albert at our California location to produce Saskatraz™ Hybrid Queens. The Saskatraz™ Program was established with diverse genetics to enrich sustainable economic traits such as:

- Tolerance to Varroa Mites
- Overwintering
- Honey Production
- Gentle Temperament

Ultimately, we believe when you choose our queens, you are part of making these historic discoveries and carrying on the good Queen stock for planetary health.

Olivarez Honey Bees
Bee Health For Planetary Health.

ORDER FALL QUEENS NOW!

CALIFORNIA & HAWAII
TOLL FREE
877. 865. 0298
530. 865. 0298

OHBee.com
Olivarez Honey Bees, Saskatraz™

SASKATRAZ

CARNIOLAN

ITALIAN
Keeping Bees in September

Ken Ograin

My articles seem to be a broken record, but there is good reason for that. September is one of the most important of the season. Hives see several pressures this month, probably more so than any time of the year: Varroa, weather, food sources, yellowjackets, and last year at this time some of you may of been dealing with fires and smoke in your neighborhood.

So, I will cover them one at a time. These are all things you as a person managing one or hundreds of colonies can do. Do not think you can put them off until next month. Oh, yeah, then there is the issue of a virus that is affecting us and not the bees.

Varroa mite is my and your number one problem year around; if you, like many of us, treated your hives when you pulled those honey supers, you may have a false sense of well being. When was the last time you did a mite count? Over the past several years now, I have seen a sharp increase in Varroa mites around the end of the month, and this is the time your hive will be producing those fat winter bees to get us through winter and into early spring. So, do not stop mite checks just because you treated already.

If you need help with deciding which treatment is best for you, get all the information you need in one place. You will find them at the Honey Bee Health Coalition website:

Varroa Management Decision Tool: honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroatool.
“Effective Management & Medications for Honey Bee Health in the U.S.”: honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ HBHC_Approved_Medications_US_063020-003.pdf. This is a new publication, single-sheet listing all approved treatments for honey bees.

I would like to report that my mite control strategy last year led me to no winter losses, leading to my first spring honey in many years. This is the second time in 25 years that I did not have any winter losses.

Weather is one of those things we have no control of, but we can be sure to help the bees by supplying some kind of water source; you may have to experiment to find a source that your bees will use. Over the past 20 or so years, I have tried many of them, from a pond to bird baths to no end; as it turns out, they like my wife’s flower pots and my lawn sprinklers, so we have added several saucers with lava rocks. For the last few weeks, we have needed to add water to these dishes several times a day; if they go dry, the bees will let us know.

Food sources will soon be getting harder for your bees to find in many parts of the state; keep an eye on your hive entrance and, if you see a lack of activity or no pollen coming in, it may be necessary to supply them sugar syrup and protein (real pollen is the best protein). If your hive has a scale, it is easy to see when there is no nectar coming in as they will be consuming their honey stores. I doubt we will see temperatures getting down into the 50s, but if we do keep in mind that bees will not be taking up sugar syrup. Keep checking your hives’ weight by hefting the back of hive; there should be time to build up hive food stores before consistent cold temperatures arrive. If you have screen bottoms, you can use the sample board to confirm they are consuming food stores (yellow wax bits on your sample board).

Yellowjackets are and have been a problem for many. Depending on where you live, they can be very damaging to colonies, but they are everywhere. If you think you do not have them, go out to your hive very early in the day as yellowjackets fly at lower temperatures than honey bees. Traps and entrance reducers will help, but a strong population of healthy bees is your best defense. You may be using robber screens and, if you are using the simple UC Davis one, they do not work to deter yellowjackets. If you are using the robber screen, put in an entrance reducer in addition to your screen.

One last thing, work your hives safely. Keep in mind fire danger when using your smoker. Overheating in that bee suit can happen fast, so bring water and keep hydrated. Let someone know where you are if you need to work alone. Carry a cell phone.

Wanted! OSBA Fall Conference Auction Items

For the 2021 Conference a virtual auction alongside an “in-person” auction will be held. The OSBA is seeking donation items for the auction: Vacation rental (you own), air miles, catered dinner in their home, hot air balloon ride, venue tickets (play, symphony, concert), fishing trip, etc. Oft given items are gift baskets and bee related items. These are great! Last year a fishing trip and Cessna airplane ride were the most unique. Reach out to your friends for ideas beyond the world of bees.

All proceeds go toward bee research! Contact Charlie Vanden Heuvel at: charlie.bgbees@gmail.com for instructions.

Note: Charlie will need the name, description/value, and a photo of the item(s) being donated. We also will gratefully collect items on site in Florence at Registration for placement on the auction website, to close at midnight on Saturday, October 23, or in the conference benefit auction. The virtual auction website address will be posted when it becomes available.
Oregon State Beekeepers Association

2021 Fall Conference Registration Form

October 22, 23 & 24, 2021
Florence Events Center | Florence, Oregon

Please fill out clearly and completely!

Name:____________________________________________________________Date:_________ ______
Additional Family Members Attending:_____________________________________________________
Company:_____________________________________________________________________________
*Mailing Address:______________________________________________________________________
City:_______________________________________________State:_______________Zip:___________
Contact Phone:___________________*email:_______________________________________________

Attending in person:_____ Attending online: _____ *Conference programs will be mailed to online
participants. Should we need to go virtual, they will be mailed to everyone. Email addresses are required
for providing online access to conference proceedings, available to registrants until December 31, 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday Night Hospitality Room</td>
<td>Complimentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Conference1</td>
<td>Individual - $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family - $180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encaustic Painting (Limit: 30)2</td>
<td>$20 per Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number Attending:_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beekeeping Basics (Limit: 40)</td>
<td>No Additional Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number Attending:_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Luncheon</td>
<td>$22 per Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number Attending:_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Banquet</td>
<td>$50 per Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number Attending:_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Luncheon</td>
<td>$22 per Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number Attending:_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Donation3</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual OSBA Dues4</td>
<td>$40 per Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number:________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please indicate any special dietary needs:__________________________ TOTAL5,6 $

1) Attendees qualify for preregistration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before
   October 8. **No refunds after October 8, 2021. Late and on-site registration rates are: Full Conference, $190.00;
   Full Conference Family, $220.00.**
2) Children attending the workshop must be accompanied by an adult.
3) The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is classified as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Research donations
   made out to the OSBA may be deductible; please consult your accountant.
4) Please include completed membership form(s).
5) Checks **payable to OSBA**; mail with completed registration form, **postmarked no later than October 8**, to:
   Oregon State Beekeepers Association, 2021 Fall Conference, PO Box 10, Aurora OR 97002.
6) Hotel reservations are not included in these costs. Special rates may be available. See: orsba.org/2021-lodging-
and-meals for updates.
Tentative Conference Agenda

—Friday, October 22—

10:00 AM—Encaustic Painting Workshop*
NOON George Hansen, Foothills Honey Company
1–4 PM Beekeeping Basics
Dewey Caron, University of Delaware, Emeritus
3:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting
5:00 PM Registration
5–6:00 PM Submit Honey Show Entries
7:00 PM Wine and Cheese Social with Kenny Croes

—Saturday, October 23—

7:00 AM Registration
7:45 AM Welcome & Announcements
John Jacob or Joe Maresh, OSBA
8:00 AM Varroa After the Fat: Current Research Endeavors to Fight the Mite
Samuel Ramsey, USDA Bee Research Lab, Beltsville
8–9 AM Submit Honey Show Entries
9:00 AM Wrap Up of Multiple Research Projects
Testing the Efficacy of Oxalic Acid for Controlling Varroa destructor in Honey Bee Colonies
Jennifer Berry, University of Georgia
10:00 AM Break
10:30 AM Bee Research You Can Use: An Update of Project Apis m. Funded Research
George Hansen, Foothills Honey Company
11:15 AM Pesticide Risk to Honey Bees: Does the Landscape Make the Poison?
Emily Carlson, Oregon State University
NOON Break
12:15 PM Luncheon*
TBA
Steve Sheppard, Washington State University
1:45 PM Research Updates from OSU: Varroa, Bee Nutrition, Impacts of Wildfires, and More
Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University
2:30 PM Nutritional Ecology of Honey Bees in a Changing Landscape
Juliana Rangel, Texas A&M University
3:30 PM Break
4:00 PM What You Always Wanted to Know About Judging and Marketing Oregon’s Wonderful Honeys
Marjie Ehry, Happy Bee
4:30 PM General Membership Meeting
6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 PM Banquet*
TBA
Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon State University
Benefit Auction to Follow

—Sunday, October 24—

7:00 AM Registration
7:45 AM Welcome & Announcements
John Jacob or Joe Maresh, OSBA
8:00 AM Weeds and Bees
Jennifer Berry, University of Georgia
9:00 AM Strategies for Establishing Season-Long Native Habitat and NRCS Cost-Share Programs
Amy Bartow, NRCS Corvallis
9:45 AM Break
10:15 AM Factors that Affect the Reproductive Quality of Queens and Drones
Juliana Rangel, Texas A&M University
11:15 AM Multiple-Pronged Approach to Protecting Bee Health
Priya Chakrabarti Basu, Mississippi State University
NOON Break
12:15 PM Luncheon*
Panel: Raising Queens and How They Fit into Beekeeper Operations
Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon State University, Moderator, with Todd Balsiger, Karen Finley, Matt Hansen, and Paul Stromberg
1:20 PM Honey Auction
1:45 PM Overwintering Queen Banks in Oregon
Ellen Topitzhofer, Oregon State University
2:30 PM Break
2:45 PM Despicable Mites: Recent Findings in the Study of Tropilaelaps mercedesae and Varroa destructor
Samuel Ramsey, USDA Bee Research Lab, Beltsville
3:45 PM Final Comments & Adjourn

*Added cost in addition to Registration. Children must be accompanied by an adult for Encaustic Painting Workshop.

Note: Session recordings will be available to all attendees until December 31, 2021. Should the conference be required to go virtual based on guidance regarding COVID-19, the conference will be spread over two weekends.
MANN LAKE
EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR BEEKEEPING

PRODUCED TRUSTED AND SOLD BY BEEKEEPERS.

Proud Supporters of OSBA

ONLINE MANNLAKELTD.COM IN-STORE THE MANN LAKE STORE PHONE 800-800-7694
Hackensack, MN | Marshall, TX | Clarkson, KY | Wilkes-Barre, PA | Winter Haven, FL | Woodland, CA

*Subscribe to our email newsletter and get a 10% discount on your first order with us. See website for details.
Conference Honey Show

Prepare to enter the honey show at the conference this year, open to all OSBA members and conference attendees! Some details are provided here to help with planning. Additional details at: orsba.org/2021-honey-show!

COMB HONEY: Class #1
Comb Honey Sections—3 square or 3 rounds

EXTRACTING FRAMES: Class #2
Extracting Frames each class—3 frames

EXTRACTED LIQUID HONEY: Class #3
Extracted Honey—3 standard, uniform queenline 1-pound honey jars; no pint jars

OTHER: Class #4 to include Creamed and Chunk Comb Honey
All Other Honey—3 wide mouth pint jars

BEESWAX: Class #5 to include Natural or Sun Bleached, Candles, and Artisan

BEEKEEPING PHOTO: Class #6
Bee Theme: Make us laugh!
Photos—8”x10” photo, narrow black frame

GIFT BASKET: Class #7
Must contain at least 5 honey and related bee products

HONEY COOKIE CONTEST: Class #8 to be judged by attendees
Must bring the recipe and at least one dozen “predominantly” honey cookies

Share in the fun! Items entered will be auctioned during the conference, with proceeds to be used as cash prizes, ribbons, and Honey Show promotion.

Where to Stay in Florence

Among options for places to stay during the 2021 Fall Conference in Florence, those providing discounted rates include:

Best Western Pier Point Inn
85625 Hwy 101 | Florence, Oregon
541.997.7191
Discount: Ten percent | Condition: Mention OSBA

Driftwood Shores Resort & Conference Center
88416 1st Ave | Florence, Oregon
541.902.6443
Discount: Single Queen, $125.00; King with Kitchen, $166.00; Double Queen with Kitchen, $170.00; Three bedroom condo, $332.00+taxes | Condition: Online (by desktop computer only), Group Code 353845 Pin 8263; By phone, mention OSBA

Old Town Inn
170 Highway 101 | Florence, Oregon
800.301.6494 | 541.997.7131
Discount: $79/night+taxes/fees | Condition: Mention OSBA
Deadline: September 15, 2021/afterwards costs increase $10

River House Inn
1202 Bay Street | Florence, Oregon
888.824.2454
Discount: Off River, $99/night; On River, $129/night+taxes/fees
Condition: Mention OSBA
Deadline: September 15, 2021/afterwards costs increase $10

Quality Inn Florence
2475 Highway 101 | Florence, Oregon
541.997.7797
Discount: Off River, $99/night+taxes/fees | Condition: Mention OSBA

Beeswax—Continued from page 1

work, as wax is exceedingly difficult to clean. The first thing you need to consider is your wax itself. Candles require exceedingly clean wax. Dirty wax will clog wicks, resulting in candles that run, drip, smoke, and are difficult to re-light. We filter our wax through a 5-micron filter from Duda Diesel online. It is probably overkill. It seems everyone else I know uses several layers of Scott shop towels. The second consideration is what kind of candles do you wish to make. Pillars? Tapers? Molds? Dipped candles? Container candles? The only container candles I have any success with are tea lights. Larger container candles always seem to crack as they cool.

Keep in mind that beeswax shrinks considerably as it cools. Set up your candle making away from drafts. Insulating the candles as they cool can help, and keep your working temperatures as low as possible. Hand dipped candles, to me, are the most beautiful. To make them, you need a fairly deep vat, space to hang candles while they cool, and time to dip. Molded candles are relatively easy, although they require investment in molds. A huge variety of molds are available, from classic pillars and tapers to dragons, mushrooms, bees, flowers, and everything in between. Mann Lake has a large inventory of silicone molds, as does Betterbee and Blue Sky Bee Supply. We like the efficiency of these molds. The wick threads in from the bottom and re-wicks itself when the candles are removed from the molds. For simplicity, we use all braided cotton wicks. Mann Lake has a pretty good guide to wick size with all of their molds. In general, beeswax burns a larger wick for candle diameter than paraffin or soy. It may take some experimentation. If the flame is smaller than you like, use a larger wick. If it tunnels, use a larger wick. Burns too fast? Smaller wick. Beeswax, a natural product, is less consistent than paraffin and may take some tinkering to get it right.

The most important factors in using your beeswax, whatever you chose to do with it, are to be safe with molten wax and to have fun with it. You may enjoy the feeling of beeswax salve on hardened knuckles. Or you may enjoy making soap with a bit of beeswax. Or perhaps using it to seal your favorite boots or cutting boards. We love the warm glow of beeswax during the long winter nights, and I am sure you will, too.

Note: Matt presented the demonstration workshop “Candle Making” with Liz Lovelock during OSBA’s 2020 Fall Conference.

BEEKEEPER EVENTS

BEEKEEPER EVENTS

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SEASON'S LABOR

Beeline Apiaries & Woodenware
See us for all your beekeeping supplies!

Woodenware Bee Health Products
Foundation Suits and Jackets
Tools Books
Oxalic Acid Vaporizers

Bee Packages and Nucs available in Spring

PH: 360-280-5274
Email: beelineofwa@norcell.us

Store Hours:
Open Monday – Friday 8 AM to 5 PM
Saturday -- By Appointment
Sunday – Closed
August – January Call

Store Address: 19019 Moon Rd SW Rochester, WA 98579
September 2021

REGионаl News

Regional Associations

Central Oregon Beekeepers

We’re hoping that September in Central Oregon remains relatively mild. From the people point of view, as with many parts of the state, I think we’re ready for some warm, but not hot, weather. Our first frost is frequently later in the month, which can definitely cut short the domestic flower season. In the rural areas, the rabbitbrush can sometimes go into the middle of the month though. Once again, as with much of the state, we had our share of smoke (best wishes go out to those who were personally or via business affected by the fires). We have quite a bit of discussion about whether the smoke affects the bees both in the hive as well as out foraging. It would be interesting to hear what other areas of the state experienced in the effects of smoke. A similar question about the heat. The bees obviously can tolerate hot weather, but anecdotally it seemed that some of the forage plants bloomed but didn’t produce as much nectar, or maybe the bees just spent more time hauling water and less hauling nectar.

Finally, in Central Oregon, much of our rural land is irrigated. With the low snowfall, many of the less senior water right holders had either intermittent or no water starting mid-summer. It was very hard for many of the growers. Beekeepers found that some of the forage crops and weeds withered up or didn’t bloom later in August. Harvest is underway if not over.

Over the last month there has been discussion about whether to pull honey before the rabbitbrush bloom, to allow the bees to backfill, or after, to both get more honey as well as reduce late-season swarms but possibly require fall feeding. Time will tell.

Starting in July we had a hybrid in-person association meeting. We provided a Zoom feed for those who either couldn’t make it in person or didn’t feel comfortable with a group of people. It was nice to visit with people. In the July meeting, we had a wonderful talk by several members on small-scale (personal and friends) queen rearing. In August, the discussion was about using nucs as spare parts and for queen mating. In September, we’ll be trying an outdoor field day in lieu of an association meeting, hopefully culminating in a picnic.

Our fourth annual photography and haiku contest will be culminating in October. We have had some wonderful creative entries over the last several years. You can see them on our website www.cobeekeeping.org under 2021 Photo Haiku Contest. We are definitely looking forward to the OSBA conference in person (fingers crossed). Allen Engle

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

Frustrations abound! The Columbia Gorge’s weather typically finds a cold and wet spring through June. This year, 2021, found warmer temperatures with little moisture. June sprang forth with temperatures exceeding 90ºF and reaching over 100ºF on some days. This pattern was absent of any moisture. Fire season, which typically appears in August, arrived early in June and continued. August continued with heat exceeding 90ºF. Why mention the weather? Varroa mites, the frustration of every beekeeper, were a bit tougher as many of the miticides required 85ºF or less. Time will tell if the unusually high-degree weather impacts the hives going into winter. Of some concern this year has been the meager production of blackberries. The good news is there are now three active hives at the extension service. Although no “in person” association meetings have been held, weekly inspections by a small group of students have kept them thriving. We continue to hold Zoom meetings. Like all beekeepers, we long for the days of meeting face-to-face to share tall tales of beekeeping exploits. Jerry Frazier

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Dearth came to apiaries in the northern Willamette Valley area in late July, and warm, dry (sometimes downright HOT) weather has continued. And with dearth comes the persistent zipping of honey bee’s nemesis, the yellowjacket. While entomologists consider yellowjackets a beneficial insect, we who steward honey bees consider them a nuisance at best and bona fide vexations when they attack our hives or backyard barbecues. Bees from other colonies or apiaries may also visit and attempt to rob your hives. Only strong hives and nucs can withstand being bombarded by these robbing behaviors.

To ensure strong hives, we make sure we sample for mites and treat for Varroa, as needed. We are feeding syrup to our colonies and reducing entrances, as needed. We limit feeding to internal feeders only. We do not do open feeding or have any entrance feeders. Where additional preventive measures are warranted, there are several strategies to consider:

1) Robbing screens can be effective at confusing robbers. Entrances can be reduced or completely closed off temporarily.

2) Putting wet towels around the hive may help.

3) Smearing some Vicks VapoRub on the landing board may also confuse potential robbers.

4) Purchased or homemade traps can be put up, away from hives.

Whatever method you use, vigilance is key to keeping hives strong and building the stores they will need for the coming fall and winter.

Association activities continue with monthly virtual meetings, including speakers and activities. With the current CDC and state guidelines in mind, we have been offering apiary visits and tours with seasoned beekeepers opening their apiaries and colonies for interested association members regardless of experience level. I always learn something by observing
another beekeeper’s practices and inspections. Our annual PMBA picnic was scheduled for August 14, from 1 to 4 PM in Max Patterson Park in Gladstone. Details from the picnic will be presented in the next *Bee Line* update from PMBA. Until then, happy beekeeping!

Dave Schwartz

**Portland Urban Beekeepers**

I can’t believe we’re heading into fall—it feels like just yesterday we were amazed and relieved to be finally transitioning to 2021. We are excited to be back in the PUB apiary for member work parties, and our manager has great plans for the next few months. For its August meeting, PUB hosted Dr. Sam Ramsey who gave us an informative and entertaining talk on a new mite which beekeepers need to be aware of: *Tropilaelaps mercedesae* aka Tropi mite. This mite has not yet reached the US, but it’s really just a matter of time until it has. First identified in SE Asia, it’s officially now beyond Asia and spreading even faster than Varroa spread. Unfortunately, the mite has a more robust genetic code: They are incredibly fast movers, their feeding causes more damage to larvae than Varroa, and they reproduce significantly faster, too. Are you nervous yet? Thankfully, scientists like Dr. Ramsey are already working to establish treatment options and focusing on education to increase awareness and identification.

Due to the Delta variant, we’ve decided to hold off on committing to our December in-person honey tasting; hopefully things will settle down in the next few months and we can put it back on the calendar. Til then, we enjoy mingling at the apiary and feel fortunate that events like the Oregon State Fair could happen once again.

Jessica Anderson

**Tualatin Valley Beekeepers**

Our Members are reporting a mixed bag on the honey harvest this year—the very hot patches and dry season definitely impacted some nectar sources. Other members are seeing substantial harvests. Seems like watering the forage plants makes a difference.

We are tickled that our overwinter stats from Dr. Caron’s survey are enormously improved. Mentoring efforts and constant messaging with regard to mites testing, and planning and executing a mite managing plan would seem to have paid off. We’ll be continuing to message on best ways to support our colonies’ winter bee success as we move forward into fall. We are looking forward to the OSBA conference.

Wootens Queens & Bees, Inc., Steve Park Apiaries, Inc. & Wootens 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 novemra disease.

**Queens shipped Mid April- August**

Wootens’ Queens & Bees, Inc. | Steve Park Apiaries, Inc. | Wootens Bee Farms

Major Credit Cards Accepted | 888-565-8439 | order@wootensqueensbees.com

www.wootensqueensbees.com
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: ________________________
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!

Note: New memberships after August 31 extend through 2022!
All the months are crude experiments, out of which the perfect September is made.
— Virginia Woolf

Enjoy September, National Honey Month!

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 October issue, 2021. The deadline for submitting copy is September 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!

Advertising

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Listing</th>
<th>Per Issue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All events, space permitting (15 words)</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a nonprofit group event, an additional 30 words (total of 45) in the listing or an article</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advertising</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business card</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter page</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half page</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full page</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classified Ad (30 words)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonmembers</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>