



The Bee Line

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Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association



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OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM
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Image above: A young girl's introduction to the bees and their care. Whether in a bee yard or in a setting such as Ag Fest or through an event at a state or county fair, an experience of the wonder of bees can last a lifetime!

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

Ramesh Sagili

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% 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% 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 (OSU 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 this year (2022), then please read the study process below.

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: 541 737-5440; 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.

Oregon Ag Fest Breaks Records with 22,000 in 2022

Bonnie King

The Oregon Ag Fest was a big hit! The OSBA booth was busy from start to finish both days, April 23-24. Nearly 22,000 people of all ages attended this 35th Oregon Ag Fest breaking all previous records. A big comeback after the last two "COVID" years.

We really focused on "future beekeepers" and compiled a list of those interested in learning more. I've connected with the Oregon 4-H folks and expect to have more interaction with them about their beekeeping programs in the near future.

Even in Oregon, where green has many shades and farm animals are plentiful, most people don't come in contact with agriculture every day. Or so they may think! The Oregon Ag Fest exemplifies how very important agriculture is to our very lives whether we live in the city



or the country.

Kids and adults alike lined up to enjoy scores of opportunities to touch, taste, and experience the incredible world of Oregon agriculture. The Oregon State Beekeepers' booth, in Ag Country, was a popular spot from the moment the doors opened, with the Queen bee a show stopper as usual.

“Ag Country with all the hands-on activities is always the heart and soul of the event, but Nosey’s Neighborhood with all

We could not have accomplished this endeavor without the kind and generous volunteers who helped staff the booth as well as set up and break down.

I'd like to thank: Jeremy Mitchell, our observation hive coordinator; Glenn Peters at Nature's Kick Honeystix for donating honey stix, always an amazing hit with all ages; Andony Melathopoulos, Jen Larsen, Sarah Kincaid, and the Oregon Bee Project for donating seed packets, informational



the animals is a close second,” said Michele Ruby, executive director of Oregon Ag Fest.

The enthusiasm and excitement that you see in people’s faces as they approach the observation hive makes time in the booth fly by. So many people gave us their heartfelt thanks for being there. Honey bees bring out the best in people, especially if they have history with the beekeeping industry.

Over 100 vendors were selling their wares in the Jackman Long Building. Ag Country took over Columbia Hall with outdoor activities surrounding the grounds. There was a farmland play area where kids could “milk a cow,” a petting zoo, a plant-your-own-garden area, entertainment, and lots of good food. It was a tremendous opportunity to share the intrigue of honey bees.

Dozens of people gave us questions to be answered via email, and hundreds received the list of association events that they are welcome to attend. Hopefully, our Oregon bee associations will see some new visitors at upcoming meetings!

cards, and color books; volunteers: Diane Carrico, Naomi Allan, Terry Holm, Ruth Trump, Marjorie Ehry, Bob Richard, and David Martinez, all for showing up with a smile and enthusiasm!

Here’s hoping this is just the beginning in our outreach to help create new beekeepers of the future. There’s no time like the present!

I am working on the state fair booth and looking forward to our biggest event of the year. The Oregon State Fair is August 26–September 5. I will announce a cooking contest and other important details in next month’s report. We may have some 4-H youth beekeepers helping us out in our booth this year, we are working on ideas to get them involved. These events can only be more successful and memorable if you join us. Please volunteer!

For information re: the Oregon State Fair booth and/or competitions, please contact me: Bonnie King, 503 864-2100, email: bonjking@gmail.com.

Message from the President

Greetings, fellow beekeepers.

June is quite possibly my favorite month of beekeeping. With any luck, the nectar will be flowing and things will still be green in many locations. The fire season feels less imminent, provided we do not go straight to triple digit temperatures as has been common in recent years. The forage is good, and beekeeping will be easier than any other time of the year.

This month we will witness the zenith of the queen's natural egg-laying rate and brood nest size. It can be easy to lull ourselves into a sense of complacency. As we turn the corner on the solstice, the days become perceptively shorter, nectar plants begin to dry out, and the beekeeping game substantively changes. With some experience, it becomes easy to see that every beautiful developing larval cell is a perfect incubator for the little red vermin Varroa. Similar to fire season feeling a way off but indeed being very near, the honey bee colony will seem impressively invincible, but in truth will be nearing a very hazardous situation as the brood nest shrinks and the Varroa population rapidly expands to suck the life out of your bees.

This means June is a great month to be proactive with your bees. Do not wait for signs of decline to take action. Know your mite counts and act accordingly. Problems are significantly easier to address now than in the fall when the days are shorter, resources scarce, and our bees must be preparing for winter mode.

Speaking of winter mode, at the time of this writing in early May, the California snowpack in the Sierras is ranging from 9 percent to 29 percent of normal depending on which part of the state is being measured. Many reservoirs across the West are already at record lows. It seems that many of the cautionary tales of the current mega drought are coming true with Lake Mead and the Colorado River at all time lows. As I've mentioned before, this will have profound implications for almond pollination and the beekeeping industry. This is why I do take some solace in the cool, wet April and early May, despite it playing utter havoc with early season queen

production. Let's all hope these May showers bring plenty of June flowers.

Over the past 25 years of commercial beekeeping in Oregon I don't think I have ever witnessed as many headwinds for our industry. One can pick their poison at this point. Fuel prices, overall inflation, wide-ranging drought, unpredictable weather patterns, and stagnant pollination prices will certainly stress our business models. Diesel at \$7.00–\$8.00 a gallon will kill an operation off faster than Varroa ever could. Not to mention that there are 1.9 job openings for every one person looking for work. This will continue to put upward pressure on labor prices and may even worsen if a lot of women come out of the workforce.

These challenging macroeconomic headwinds will only make supporting honey bee research even more important. As food prices climb, the role of pollination services and corresponding pollination prices will have a huge role in our food supply. Wouldn't it be great, even in the face of rising prices and growing difficulties, if it became easier and more affordable to keep our bees alive as a result of honey bee research?

To that end, please continue to look for ways to share our Gofundme link on your social media: www.gofundme.com/f/100year-anniversary-help-us-save-the-bees-event. For further reading on using Facebook with Gofundme, check out: www.gofundme.com/c/blog/facebook-advertising.

It looks like we have a long way to go to reach our goal in maximizing the SAVE the BEE Initiative's match. This is a tough environment in which to raise funds; however, keep in mind that bees have a crucial role in making things better for everybody. We all need food no matter the state of the economy.

That is it for now. Time to take advantage of a rare day warm enough to catch queens. We have only had at best maybe 24 hours of good bee flight time over the past few weeks. Just enough to get some mated, but rare opportunities to open mating nucs. May your nectar flow and your bees grow.

John Jacob

California Association Collaboration

Sheryl Wilkins from the SisQ Bee Club in Siskiyou County, California, writes that, "As with so many organizations, post pandemic practices have opened new ways of doing business and provided the opportunity to regroup, reorganize, and reinvigorate." At 60 members, she says they are a collaborative partner with the Klamath Basin Beekeepers Association and value this growing relationship. They just completed an order for 80 packages/nucs, and their Mentor/Mentee process

"builds new relationships around the common ground that exists between people and bees President Jerry Heikura is very busy with community presentations about bee basics and pollinators Quartermaster and Siskiyou County Ag Commissioner Jim Smith . . . through time and space for the Club's beekeeping projects, provides a backbone to many of their projects. The trio of Mariana Harmon, Deni Duncan, and Sheryl Wilkins complete the SisQ Bee Board and are a powerhouse of ideas and energy that round out the Club."

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OSBA Executive Committee Meeting

May 9, 2022, at 6:30 PM ❖ via Zoom

Present: Joe Maresh, Becca Fain, Brad York, Debby Garman, Jan Lohman, Jeremy Mitchell, Linda Zahl, Mike Rodia, Pat Wackford, Paul Stromberg, Ramesh Sagili, Tim Wydronek, and Barbara Derkacht

Vice President Joe Maresh called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Treasurer's Report

Becca Fain, treasurer, presented the treasurer's report, which was somewhat abbreviated due to bank issues with making the transfer from one treasurer to the next. The organization is in good financial shape, and there are currently no outstanding expenses. The 100-year anniversary fundraising effort is ongoing.

The prospect of buying the Wild Apricot software was discussed. One concern is that there is a significant price increase for groups having over 250 members. Becca Fain, Brad York, and Debby Garman will meet May 16 at 3 PM to study the advantages of using this software for our organization.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Becca Fain moved and Debby Garman seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2022, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Grants

Jan Lohman presented a report on OSBA grants. (Note: Fund balances have probably been impacted by recent stock market fluctuations.) The fund balances below are all as of March 31, 2022.

Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education

Current Use (4100-16029)	\$6,169.93
Endowment (6220-16029)	\$110,164.74

OSU Apiculture Endowment

Current Use (4100-16032)	\$32,262.20
Endowment (6220-16032)	\$82,036.83

Herman A Scullen Memorial Fellowship Fund

Current Use (4100-19805)	\$4,213.72
Endowment (6220-19805)	\$80,186.89

The OSBA and OSU Honey Lab collaborated in applying for a \$60,000 grant to teach the Master Beekeeper course in Spanish. Carolyn Breece and Jan Lohman are working together to move this project forward and currently have 9 people registered with a goal of 15 participants.

OSU Honey Bee Lab

Ramesh Sagili is most grateful for the collaboration as collaboration with the OSBA greatly enhances OSU's ability

to secure such grants. Ramesh reported on a pollen collection project aimed at determining the nutritional composition of various pollens.

European foulbrood is a particular problem for commercial beekeepers engaged in blueberry pollination. The Oregon Blueberry Commission is supporting an effort by OSU, UC Davis, and WSU to secure a grant to study this problem.

Carolyn Breece went to Warrenton to a cranberry growing facility where pollinators are having issues with American foulbrood. Cranberries, just as are blueberries, are nutritional stressors for bees.

Ramesh urges hobby beekeepers to participate in the pollen collection project to increase the number of pollens available for study. Oregon State University has a pollen vacuum and also videos available to show how to collect pollen.

Legislative Report

Mike Rodia continues his efforts in Jackson and Klamath counties on behalf of residential beekeepers. Apparently in Jackson County, there are no beekeeping rules for residential zones; however, residential beekeeping is covered by some city codes. In Shady Cove (near Medford), the only rule is for a setback from public right-of-ways (sidewalks, streets, etc.).

In Oregon, under DEQ regulations, it is illegal to burn painted bee equipment in an open burning situation, and it is also illegal to take such equipment to the landfill. Burning is only allowed in a closed-burn environment. There is a DEQ exemption, however, available from the Department of Agriculture IF the apiary has foulbrood which cannot be controlled in any other practical way. If a beekeeper needs to burn painted boxes, s/he must request a form letter from the Department of Agriculture attesting to the existence of foulbrood. The beekeeper determines the presence of foulbrood in the apiary. Sadly, at the present time, the Department of Ag doesn't seem to have anyone with knowledge or experience with bees. This is an issue because beekeepers are sending the department fees—\$10 of which is an administrative fee, and \$0.50/hive, which goes to OSU. It was suggested that Harry Vanderpool, as our agriculture liaison, go to talk with them about this issue.

Reports from Regional Representatives and Regional Associations

Tillamook – Brad York reported that they've got 147 beekeepers in their association, of whom 47 are new beekeepers this year. They distributed 154 new nucs for the year.

Portland Metro Beekeepers – Paul Stromberg reported

Continued on page 12

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Assessing the Nutrient Content of Pollen

Juliana Rangel and others

Note: Juliana Rangel, Texas A&M University, presented “Nutritional Ecology of Honey Bees in a Changing Landscape” during our 2021 Fall Conference last October. She has provided an article relative to her presentation. The publication, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, however, is copyrighted. Access—at cost—is at: <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2021.0510>, cited as follows:

Lau P, Lesne P, Grebenok RJ, Rangel J, Behmer ST. 2022 Assessing pollen nutrient content: a unifying approach for the study of bee nutritional ecology. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B* 377: 20210510

Abstract

Poor nutrition and landscape changes are regularly cited as key factors causing the decline of wild and managed bee populations. However, what constitutes ‘poor nutrition’ for bees currently is inadequately defined. Bees collect and eat pollen: it is their only solid food source and it provides a broad suite of required macro- and micronutrients. Bees are also generalist foragers and thus the different pollen types they collect and eat can be

highly nutritionally variable.

Therefore, characterizing the multidimensional nutrient content of different pollen types is needed to fully understand pollen as a nutritional resource.

Unfortunately, the use of different analytical approaches to assess pollen nutrient content has complicated between-studies comparisons and blurred our understanding of pollen nutrient content. In the current study, we start by reviewing the common methods used to estimate protein and lipids found in pollen. Next, using monofloral Brassica and Rosa pollen, we experimentally reveal biases in results using these methods. Finally, we use our collective data to propose a unifying approach for analysing pollen nutrient content. This will help researchers better study and understand the nutritional ecology—including foraging behaviour, nutrient regulation and health—of bees and other pollen feeders.

Keeping Bees in June

Jan Lohman

To follow up on my 2021 “Keeping bees in June” article, I can now confirm that every year is indeed an exception and we can throw out all previous assumptions. Yes, 2021 was cold and windy in spring, but 2022 is even colder, wetter, and windier. Virgin queens must be totally frustrated!

June is the time to evaluate your queens, if you have not already requeened your hives. Commercial beekeepers find the time to requeen whenever it works into their schedule each year; for hobby beekeepers, it is important to evaluate your queen each time that you check your hives. When you notice supersedure cells, damaged queens (queens with a bad leg), or spotty brood or poor performance, it is time to retire that queen and get some fresh energy into the hive.

If your hive has swarm cells, there are a few things that you can do to mitigate the colony’s swarm behavior. It does not always work, but worth the time. If the queen is still laying eggs, but also throwing swarm cells, you can knock off the cells that are found, usually on the bottom of your frames in the top box, and pull out a few frames of brood (without pulling the queen) to give her more room. You can use that brood to build a nuc to have available when needed, with either a purchased queen or let the bees build their own queen by having young eggs on the frames of brood that you pull—or pull a frame with queen cells already on the frame. While you are knocking off swarm cells, you can also reverse the two boxes so that the queen is less crowded.

Remember, if your hive has swarmed . . . it is important to give the hive enough time to replace her. If you add a mated queen . . . leave the hive alone for 10 days before checking to be sure she has taken. If you are letting the hive do their own replacement, you should wait 30 days before checking for eggs.

In parts of Oregon there should be honey flows beginning. Do you plan to use an excluder? Do you see white wax on your hive’s top bars? If so, the bees are telling you that it is show time! For bee colonies to make excess honey, they need robust populations of bees. You should be working to create these robust colonies from early spring to get them prepared.

Record keeping is so important, but so often missed . . . you can write on your hive with a lumber crayon, you can use a computer program or use your cell phone or use a regular notebook . . . important information to gather includes temperatures when you work your bees, bloom phenology, queen observed, eggs observed, feeding needed, and what to do on your next visit.

Finally you need to always be prepared for Varroa. It is critical that you know your Varroa levels, especially in the summer, and have a plan in place for how to treat when it is time. Be proactive about selecting an approved treatment that you and your bees can live with. For treatment information, please check out *Tools for Varroa Management* at: honeybeehealthcoalition.org.

I forgot to say that summer is near . . . queens will be mated . . . and I hope that you have an amazing beekeeping year.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Associations

Central Oregon

This has been a tough spring for us on the dry side of the mountains. A couple of early warm spells back in March and April, followed by some extended cold weather in May. In May, we're seeing quite a few blooms, but not many flyable days (30s and 40s with snow and rain). As such, we're hearing quite a bit about late-season starvation, both with existing colonies (very frustrating as they were really going gangbusters) as well as with some of the newly installed nucs, which also were chock-a-block with brood (and hence no stores). Additionally, there were several swarms in May, and we're watching to see if the mother colony actually gets the virgin mated.

In June, finally, we should be getting more consistent warmer days. The fruit trees are pretty much done, but the dandelions, fillaree, and early season domesticated flowers are in full splendor. Later in the month, we'll be seeing the bitterbrush. It'll be interesting as well to see what kind of a swarm season we see in that any feral colonies will have had the same problems without the therapeutic feeding by a beekeeper.

In May we scheduled three outdoor seminars for our beginner bee school. And we're planning on an additional "bee day" later in the summer where we'll cover more advanced topics. We had our first in-person meeting in May and are looking forward to MANY more.

As always, you're invited to our meetings, the 3rd Tuesday of the month, at the Environmental Center in Bend. *Allen Engle*

Douglas County Bees

Douglas County Bees is in full swing this spring! We have our swarm alert system active, we've completed six cut-outs so far this bee season, and our schedule of events for having an informational booth at festivals, events, and the DC Fair has almost filled up the calendar clear through September. The bees are busy as ever! If only the rain would give us a break and allow us to get into the garden to weed and plant!

Beau Miakinkoff

Oregon Central Coast Beekeepers

Our Central Coast association has not met this month. Our next meeting will be May 25 at the Newport Senior Center, as the Newport Library is doing remodeling. We will have a board meeting at 1 PM, and the general meeting starts at 2 PM.

Several of our association members participated in the Florence Garden Club's plant sale. We had an information table and answered questions about keeping honey bees. There was a pretty good turn out even with the rainy weather.

Here on the coast the cold and rain have prevented bees from flying and gathering pollen, and some members still have syrup feeders on their hives. When we do get a dry warmer day, there is only one thing on my to do list and that is check my hives!
Pat Wackford

Portland Metro Beekeepers

For the first time in over two years, Portland Metro Beekeepers Association was proud to host an in-person Bee Day on April 30 at Foothills Honey Company in Colton, Oregon. With over 120 attendees, it was a huge success!



New beekeepers, and those thinking about getting into beekeeping, were treated to informative presentations and hands-on hive inspections from several local experts from around the



greater Portland area, including representatives from the OSU Honey Bee Lab, leadership from PMBA and TVBA, and author, entomologist, and beloved bee expert Dr. Dewey Caron.

Attendees had the opportunity to win several raffle prizes, including live bees, beekeeping equipment, power tools, massages, and lots more. It was a great fundraiser for the association, and an even more wonderful educational opportunity for all who attended.

Association members have been making splits and taking other steps to mitigate the likelihood of swarming. Just in time for the season, PMBA launched a brand new swarm hotline. Swarms spotted in the greater Portland Metro area can now be reported to 877-PDX-BEEK. A PMBA member will answer the call, prepared to rescue the swarm!

June brings the blackberry nectar flow, a favorite for our little nectar collectors and the heaviest nectar flow in our region. After a record-setting April rainfall, we hope the soggy weather dries up a bit (but not too much) to allow the bees to get out, collect, and pack those supers full. Springtime is also a very

important time to monitor for mites; as with the spring buildup of brood, mite populations can easily spiral out of control.

Jamie Caldwell

Portland Urban Beekeepers

I can't believe at this writing I'm still feeding my bees. In Portland, warm sunny days were still rare heading into May and my plan to add honey supers early this year did not happen. But that's how it goes with beekeeping, every year and season is a little different and requires tweaks and adjustments.

Speaking of tweaks, PUB is considering going to back to occasional in-person meetings. No question Zoom is popular for convenience, but many are missing the real-life connection we had at our monthly meetings. Our apiary Bee Days have been very popular, and we're happy better weather has made those possible.

We're so lucky to have the OSU honey bee research in our backyard. Dr. Ramesh Sagili spoke at our May meeting on honey bee nutrition. His research always adds something new to the toolbox of successful beekeeping, and honey bee nutrition is an evolving area of exploration. The short answer: Feed those late-

summer/fall bees with patties of at least 5–10 percent pollen! And of course, treat for mites . . . never gets old!

Jessica Anderson

Tillamook Beekeepers

Our annual Home and Garden Show and Bee Days were held April 30 and May 1. It was a tremendous success for us; we sold a few more raffle tickets for the Cape Meares Hive before awarding it to one of our members, Brad Jacob. This is the 5th annual raffle wherein the winner was a member of our associ-



ation. Only about 20 percent of the tickets sold have been to members, so the odds are against that happening. But, hey, that's good karma. In the past four years, we have raised nearly \$8,000 raffling off hives. Each hive has been crafted and decorated by

our members, and each has been beautiful in their own right.

We also sold honey and signed up a dozen or so folks for our spring Beginning Beekeeping Class. Hundreds of people came by our booth and spent time gazing at the observation hive trying to spot the queen and enjoying the sight of a few thousand bees working away. This event, along with the Tillamook County Fair held in August are the two best public relations events on our calendar.



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Our Beginning Beekeeping Class was held the following Saturday the 14th, and 25 new beekeepers joined in for 2 and 1/2 hours of fast-paced highly informative and enthusiastic instructions from Claire Moody. Claire is a great instructor and ambassador of beekeeping. Her enthusiasm for beekeeping is con-

tagious and no doubt one of the reasons our association has grown so much this year. We have 47 new members since the 1st of January.

We purchased 154 nucs this year and distributed them to 70 of our beekeepers. The queens were extremely healthy and larger than in years past. So far, all these new hives are thriving. This should be a momentous year for our local honey bees if it would just stop raining. April was the wettest April in recorded history for us, and the bees are eager to escape the hive and forage. Working with many new beekeepers in a raining season has been challenging, and helping them ensure feeding has been a large part of the education.

Brad York

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association is chugging right along in spite of the truly sucky ongoing weather in early May as this info is submitted. On April 18, we had a great upbeat nuc delivery day loaded with happy-to-start-the-beekeeping-season volunteers. And excellent well-attended hands-on field days before and after the nucs arrived. We are super grateful for all of our dedicated apiary hosts, expert instructors, and volunteers. John Rockroher gave a fantastic presentation at our May membership meeting, and we are hoping that our June member meeting presenter may be Bob Binnie from Blue Ridge Honey Company.

Debbby Garman

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BEEKEEPER EVENTS

— 2022 —

June 4: Oregon Honey and Mead Festival. Medford. *Information:* oregonhoneyfestival.com.

June 20–26: National Pollinator Week. *Information:* www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week.

June 28–July 1: HAS 2022. Evansville, Indiana. *Information:* heartlandbees.org.

August 1–5: EAS 2022 Beeing Social, Again. Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York. *Information:* easternapiculture.org/conference.

August 20: National Honey Bee Day.

August 26–September 5: Oregon State Fair. Salem. *Information:* oregonstatefair.org.

August 24–28: Apimondia Congress. Istanbul, Turkey. Now rescheduled. *Information:* apimondia2021.com.

October 1–2: Washington State Beekeepers Association JamborBEE Conference. Othello, Washington.

October 28–30: OSBA 2022 Fall Conference. Florence Events Center, Florence, Oregon. *Information:* See update in Executive Committee Meeting minutes, page 12.

November 15–17: 2022 California State Beekeepers Annual Convention. Reno, Nevada.

— 2023 —

TBA: Apimondia Congress, Santiago, Chile.

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Continued from page 5

that the association had a good nuc sale for their 230 members. The association recently had its Bee Day event at Hansen's Foothills Honey attended by 120 people. This year the association raised queen cells, so members could have these cells for requeening hives.

Linn Benton – Tim Wydronek reports that they recently had their first in-person meeting since Covid. There are 50 paid members, and the association is looking for speakers.

North Willamette Valley – Jeremy Mitchell reported that, like everywhere else in Oregon, weather has been cold and rainy. Hopefully their nuc sale will be successful. Jeremy also reported that Willamette Valley Beekeepers in the Salem area are doing well with 60 people attending meetings. Jeremy urged people to turn in more articles for *The Bee Line*.

Tualatin Valley – Debby Garman assures that she is sending a monthly article to *The Bee Line*! The association has lots of ideas and events such as a Pre-Nuc Installation Field Day and a Post-Nuc Installation Field Day especially aimed at new beekeepers. The association sold 125 nucs.

Columbia County – Linda Zahl reported that people seemed to want to meet in person, but only three showed up in person for a meeting; however, the area is very large so hybrid meetings are a must. In her area, there have been problems with queens getting mated due to rain and windy weather. Few have been doing mite counts, but the ones who have (2) have very low or no mites. Question: Is this widespread?

Oregon Central Coast – Becca Fain reported that a Beginning Beekeeping Class had 30 participants. The association sold 26 packages, and 15 nucs have been ordered. Their area is showing low mite counts as well. Their challenge is similar to other areas: fluctuating weather – rain, sun, rain – and few drones. This is a concern.

Lane County – Becca reported that there have been 3 beginning beekeeping classes held with 25 people in each.

Eastern Oregon – Jan Lohman reports that the weather is impacting their area as well, and they're having trouble getting nucs out. She also urges regional reps to get articles to Rosanna.

Conference

Joe Maresh gave an update on conference planning. He has several speakers lined up:

- ❖ Dr. Tammy Horn Potter, who will focus on environmental issues
- ❖ John Gibeau from British Columbia
- ❖ Russell Heitkam, a queen breeder and someone who reports being Amitraz-free for several years
- ❖ Ellen Topitzhofer, who could speak on wintering over banked queens

- ❖ OSU grad students might be tapped to speak
- ❖ George Hansen will again offer his workshop
- ❖ Joe said Harry would like someone from the government to talk about new rules on keeping bees on federal lands at over 2,000-foot elevation. The issue seems to be competition with native pollinators.

The conference will be held the last weekend of October in Florence. It was suggested that the auction try to get a couple of WSU's queens.

Things and people to consider for future conferences:

- ❖ Sue Cobey, a queen expert from WSU
- ❖ Bob Binnie, who would be good but needs a lot of lead time as he's got a busy schedule
- ❖ Jason Rowan, on the reality of commercial beekeeping (This could coordinate with the commercial workshop the day before the conference starts.)
- ❖ Having the conference in Newport at the Hatfield Center; continuing hybrid offering

A discussion about having two prices for conference attendees—one for members and one for nonmembers. The nonmember price would be \$40 more than the member price with that additional amount going to a 2023 OSBA membership. At the last conference there were 30 non-OSBA members in attendance. This issue was tabled until the next meeting.

Social Media/Facebook Page

There was a question about who's managing this and how material can be added. Debby Garman and Linda Zahl are taking care of this; contributors can message the Facebook page any time.

Newsletter, Website, Membership

Rosanna Mattingly submitted the following report as she was unable to attend the meeting.

Newsletter – Thanks to all who contribute! Reports, updates, photos, events, etc. are all appreciated. Due to ongoing printing difficulties, recent print issues of the newsletter have been delayed. Hopefully these issues are resolved. We are still below the 200 mailed copies needed for bulk rate, nonprofit postage, so the newsletter is going out first class.

Website – Events, reports, newsletters, and so forth have been updated. The swarm call list has been set up/opened and people continue to sign up. When beekeepers have caught enough swarms, please contact Rosanna so you can be taken off the list to keep it useful for all. Past conference programs have been uploaded as have photos from past conferences and state fairs. Additional photos and information from the past are always welcome—as are all into the future, including

for events like Ag Fest.

A reminder to send conference and summer picnic information as soon as it becomes available; information on upcoming events can be put on the website fairly quickly, but there are time constraints around getting things into the newsletter.

Membership Directory – The directory is out to membership. New memberships and renewals for 2022 continue to come in; the 40 extra directory copies have been mailed. With the extension approved at the last meeting, all except for one group were able to meet the requirements for affiliation this year.

Fairs & Exhibits Report

Bonnie King submitted the following report via email:

The Oregon Ag Fest was a big hit! Our booth was busy from start to finish both days, April 23–24. Over 22,000 kids and

adults came through the gates, so we all got quite a workout. We gave out Honey Stix donated by Nature’s Kick, and packets of seeds via the Oregon Bee Project, as well as informational cards and thousands of flyers. We really focused on “future beekeepers” and compiled a list of those interested in learning more. I’ve connected with the Oregon 4-H folks and expect to have more interaction with their beekeeping programs in the near future. Thank you to everyone that made time to help at Ag Fest!

I am working on the state fair booth and looking forward to our biggest event of the year. An article is being submitted to *The Bee Line* with more details from Ag Fest and also info for volunteers to prepare for the State Fair. I am planning to have a table at the Oregon Honey & Mead Festival June 4, in Medford. It is just a one-day event, but we’ve been there a couple of times and it’s a great opportunity to reach a new group of people. I am also interested in helping us put together a summer picnic. If there is a committee, please add me to it! Please contact me with any comments or ideas in regard to summer activities. Thank you! She also reported that her mom, Marjorie Ehry, is doing well and making progress on recovery.

Adjournment

Becca Fain moved and Mike Rodia seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Derkacht

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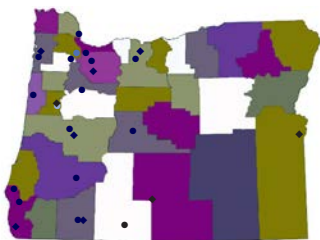
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OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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John Jacob—541.582.2337; oldsolbees@gmail.com

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Joe Maresh—503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com

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Becca Fain—541.997.3792; rfain18@gmail.com

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Harry Vanderpool—503.399.3675; shallotman@yahoo.com

♦ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

North Coast

Max Kuhn—541.999.0744; t.maxkuhn@gmail.com

South Coast

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

Columbia Basin

Bill Edwards—541.354.2223; bfamily@live.com

Eastern Oregon

Jordan Dimock—541.372.2726; beelady60tamera@aol.com

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; beetruehoneybees@gmail.com

North Willamette Valley

Jeremy Mitchell—503.580.1464; info@flyingbeeranch.net

South Willamette Valley

Tim Wydronek—541.740.4127; timwydronek@comcast.net

• AFFILIATED REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Central Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, third Tuesday, The Environmental Center
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 6:00 PM, first Wednesday, Roseburg
President: Robert Baune—541.863.9414
Website: www.douglascountybees.org

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Meets 9:00 AM, 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: Pat Wackford—pwacky@charter.net
Website: www.ccbaor.org

Oregon Prison Beekeepers

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

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, second Thursday, Gladstone
Pres: Paul Stromberg—president@portlandmetrobeekeepers.org
Website: portlandmetrobeekeepers.org

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 PM, first Wednesday, via Zoom
President: Ian Horvath—ianhorvath@gmail.com
Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, first Monday, Central Point
President: Noah Clipp—541.254.4052; noahtitus@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



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!

Reminder: Memberships are recorded on an annual basis—i.e., for the calendar year.



Oregon State Beekeepers Association
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517
Portland OR 97206
orsba.org

“Few honey bees buzzed above my head
But all the butterflies were in my stomach.”

— Tshetrim Tharchen, *A Play of the Cosmos: Script of the Stars*

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 **July 2022** issue. The deadline for submitting copy is **June 10, 2022**. 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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