



The Bee Line

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Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

OSU Honey Bee Research and Extension Program Updates

Ramesh Sagili

Hope you all are doing well, staying safe and still waiting for more sun. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a quick update on (a) some field observations this spring and (b) an overview of our current and upcoming research projects.

Observations from the Field

Brood diseases: European foulbrood (EFB) and Chalkbrood are relatively common brood diseases that are prevalent during spring. We have noticed an uptick in prevalence of EFB and Chalkbrood this year. For many new beekeepers, it is a bit challenging to differentiate between brood diseases. Beekeepers can use the diagnostic kits (Vita Bee Health) to identify EFB and AFB (American foulbrood). These diagnostic kits have been shown to be quite reliable (89% accuracy). If you need assistance with identification of brood diseases, then please feel free to contact us at the OSU Honey Bee Lab. Over the past three years, our team has been assisting our regional beekeeper groups with brood disease identification. Further, as you all are aware about the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) that came in to effect on January 1, 2017, now beekeepers must obtain a prescription or VFD from a licensed veterinarian to purchase the antibiotic medications, i.e., Tylosin (Tylan), Oxytetracycline (Terramycin), and Lincomycin (Lincomix) for controlling American foulbrood (AFB) and European foulbrood (EFB) diseases in their colonies. Beekeepers can no longer purchase these medications over-the-counter. Many beekeepers have expressed difficulty finding an interested veterinarian willing to provide a prescription. To mitigate this problem, we are training interested veterinarians in Oregon in honey bee brood disease identification (in collaboration with Dr. Michelle Kutzler, a veterinary colleague here at OSU).

Queen problems: Due to inclement weather (mostly cloudy and rainy weather) in the valley during April and May, it appears that a large proportion of virgin queens that were produced during the swarming process were unable to mate, hence resulting in significant number of drone bound or queen-less colonies.

Ongoing and Upcoming Research Projects

Developing Pollen Nutrition Composition Database (USDA AFRI Funded Project): Overall goal of this project is to improve bee nutrition by building a first-of-its-kind database of the pollen nutritional compositions. We have initiated the pollen collection process for this project. Pollen from several target plant species is being collected both manually (with a hand held vacuum device) and from honey bee pollen foragers (collecting pollen foragers). Many interested citizen scientists from across the country are volunteering to assist with pollen collection pertaining to this project. Please visit the following link to learn more about this project: orsba.org/bees-in-the-news. If you are interested, you can still sign up for assisting us with pollen collection. Please send me an e-mail at: ramesh.sagili@oregonstate.edu.

European Foulbrood Study: In this study, we are investigating potential factors contributing to high prevalence of EFB in commercial honey bee colonies pollinating blueberries and other early season crops. We are testing several factors, including poor nutrition, fungicide exposure, and potentially skewed larvae to nurse bee ratio in the colonies.

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Image above: It's bee time!

In addition to checking the OSBA website for upcoming events and resources (e.g., see: orsba.org/resources), be sure to review the websites of regional associations for upcoming events and ways to participate at: orsba.org/affiliated-associations!

Oxalic Acid Vaporization Study: In 2021 summer, we tested the efficacy of different doses of oxalic acid (vaporization) for controlling Varroa. The following doses were included in the study: 1 g, 2 g and, 4 g per brood chamber. Results from that study indicated that 4 g dose was providing adequate Varroa control when used three times at weekly intervals. Unfortunately, 4 g dose of oxalic acid appears to cause some brood damage. Hence, we plan to include another lower dose of 3 g in our study this summer with the goal of obtaining

similar Varroa control effectiveness as 4 g, but with a lower brood mortality.

I would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all for your continued and unwavering support for the past twelve years. It has been a pleasure and great joy to serve you all through our research and extension program. We will provide research updates at the upcoming OSBA conference, so please stay tuned. We wish you and your bees a fabulous rest of the year.

The Impacts of Multiple Stressors on Honey Bees

Priyadarshini Chakrabarti Basu

There are multiple stressors impacting bee pollinators such as pesticides, poor nutrition, Varroa mites, etc. It is important to not only investigate each of these stressors individually but also examine their synergistic impacts. I will briefly discuss three such recent experiments to investigate the impacts of multiple stressors.

1. Impacts of Pesticides on Different Age Cohorts of Honey Bees

Current EPA regulations for assessing toxicity to bee pollinators are spread across three tiers: I, II, and III. Tier I is a lab study that is done on two-day-old honey bees, Tier II is a semi-field study usually conducted in flight cages, and Tier III involves large-scale field experiments. As adult honey bees of all ages can be exposed to pesticides, we wanted to investigate how three different age cohorts of adult honey bees (newly emerged, nurses, and foragers) respond to the same dose of pesticide (thiamethoxam) in a laboratory cage study (Figure 1) conducted for ten days. The pesticide was administered through sugar syrup. We found that foragers were most affected as evident by increased oxidative stress and reduced longevity. The newly emerged honey bees were the least affected. The nurse honey bees showed response patterns in between the other two age cohorts. Thus, we find that there are significant changes in response to pesticides across different age cohorts and further studies are required to understand such impacts across the different age groups.



Figure 1: The laboratory cage set-up at the OSU Honey Bee Lab.

2. Impacts of Fungicides on Pollen Phytosterol Quality

This study is recently funded by the USDA AFRI program. One of the objectives is to understand the impacts of a specific group of fungicides, called the sterol biosynthesis inhibitory fungicides (SBI fungicides), on blueberry plant pollen phytosterol quality. These fungicides are designed to inhibit ergosterol biosynthesis in fungal pathogens of plants, and recent studies are showing evidence of nontarget impacts

on honey bees and bumble bees as well as plants. We tested two different fungicides and sprayed them at field application rates on two varieties of highbush blueberries (Duke and Elliott) at the OSU research farm. We then hand-collected pollen from thousands of flowers (Figure 2) to test the phytosterol profiles of the plant pollens and compared

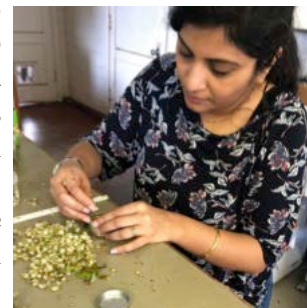


Figure 2: Hand collecting blueberry pollen.

the results between the treatment and the control groups. We are seeing some changes in the phytosterol profiles. This is a three-year study, and we can provide more information once all data are analyzed.

3. The Role of Pollen Nutrition and Commercial Probiotic on Mitigating Pesticide Stress

We wanted to investigate how an added commercial probiotic can improve overall bee health and affect the gut microbiome composition. We also additionally wanted to test the impacts of supplementing multifloral pollen patties to counteract such stress. Newly emerged honey bees were held in laboratory cages and treatments included the presence or absence of: multifloral pollen (Figure 3), a commercial probiotic, and exposure to a lambda-cyhalothrin for two weeks. As based on our preliminary data, we find the highest survival in experimental groups that are supplemented with both probiotics and pollen, as compared to experimental groups that were exposed to pesticides and not supplemented with either pollen or probiotics. This is currently an ongoing experiment, and we are still analyzing the molecular datasets.



Figure 3: Providing multifloral pollen patties to the experimental groups.

Note: Priya is currently Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University and Courtesy Faculty, Oregon State University. She presented "Multiple-Pronged Approach to Protecting Bee Health" during our 2021 Fall Conference.

Dr. Eric Carnes Mussen: May 12, 1944–June 3, 2022

Kathy Keatley Garvey

Entomology and Nematology News, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources ❖ Published on: June 5, 2022

Note: This partial reprint is added to this issue with kind permission from Kathy Keatley Garvey. The full post, which is at: <https://ucanr.edu/b/~9dD>, concludes with the following: “I am basically all pro-bee,” Mussen told the *American Bee Journal* in a two-part feature story published in September 2011. “Whatever I can do for bees, I do it. . . . It doesn’t matter whether there is one hive in the backyard or 15,000 colonies. Bees are bees and the bees’ needs are the bees’ needs.” Many in Oregon have witnessed Eric’s grace, enthusiasm, and generosity in the care he has described here—myself very much included. We will miss him and extend our sympathy to his family, friends, and close colleagues.

Celebrated honey bee authority Dr. Eric Carnes Mussen, an internationally known 38-year California Cooperative Extension apiculturist and an invaluable member of the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology faculty, died Friday, June 3 from liver cancer. He was 78.

Dr. Mussen, a resident of Davis, was admitted to a local hospital on May 25. He was diagnosed with liver cancer/failure on May 31 and returned to the family home June 1 for hospice care. He passed away the evening of June 3.

“Eric was a giant in the field of apiculture,” said Steve Nadler, professor and chair of the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology. “The impact of his work stretched far beyond California.”

Dr. Mussen, known to all as “Eric,” joined the UC Davis entomology department in 1976. Although he retired in 2014, he continued his many activities until a few weeks prior to his death. For nearly four decades, he drew praise as “the honey bee guru,” “the pulse of the bee industry” and as “the go-to person” when consumers, scientists, researchers, students, and the news media sought answers about honey bees.

“Eric’s passing is a huge loss,” said longtime colleague Lynn Kimsey, director of the Bohart Museum of Entomology and a UC Davis distinguished professor of entomology. “He was always the go-to person for all things honey bee. He worked happily with hobbyists, commercial beekeepers and anyone just generally interested.”

Colleagues described Mussen as the “premier authority on bees and pollination in California, and one of the top beekeeping authorities nationwide,” “a treasure to the beekeeping industry,” and “a walking encyclopedia when it comes to honey bees.”

Norman Gary, a noted UC Davis emeritus professor of entomology who served as a faculty member from 1962 to 1994, described Eric as “by far, the best Extension apiculturist in this country.”

“Eric’s career was so productive and exciting that a book would be required to do justice for his many contributions to his profession as extension entomologist specializing in apiculture, better known as beekeeping,” Gary said. “His mission basically was facilitating productive and reciprocal communication between beekeeping researchers at UC Davis, commercial



Eric and Helen Mussen in the UC Davis Bee Garden on Bee Biology Road in 2017, when they served as president and vice president, respectively, of the Western Apicultural Society.

beekeeping as it affects California’s vast needs for the pollination of agricultural crops, providing helpful information to hobby beekeepers, and educating the general public concerning honey bees. His great professional successes in all areas have been recognized around the world. He has received numerous awards, especially from the beekeeping industry. He was by far the best Extension apiculturist in this country!”

“In addition to professional duties, he enthusiastically tackled other projects for entomology faculty,” Gary said. “For example, he critically reviewed most of my publications, including scientific papers, books, and bulletins. He worked diligently to help create the Western Apicultural Society and later served as president. (Mussen served six terms as president, the last term in 2017.) I especially appreciated his volunteering to moderate a video that historically summarized and recorded my entire 32-year career at UC Davis. And his tribute would not be complete without mentioning that he was one of my favorite fishing buddies.”

“Eric was proud of his loving wife, Helen, and family (sons Timothy and Christopher and two grandchildren),” Gary said. “His family support was unconditional. He will be sadly missed by everyone.”

Leslie Saul-Gershenz, a UC Davis doctoral alumna in entomology, praised his kindness and generosity. “I have known Eric for over 30 years and he was the kindest, most supportive human being. He always came to speak at the San Francisco Bee Club to support local beekeepers and was the most generous of colleagues anyone could ever hope for. He was an immense resource of knowledge about honey bees, and I am sure he will be missed by many people across the state of California.”

“Despite his illness, which I was unaware of, he helped me with a honey bee issue just a couple of weeks ago,” said Catherine Tauber, a UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology associate and a retired Cornell University senior research associate. “He even wrote to the person he thought could help out and ‘greased

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the skids' for me. A truly unselfish, helpful, and thoughtful person. The department and California bee enthusiasts lost a true friend.”

Mussen's longtime friends and colleagues—bee breeder-geneticist Susan Cobey of Washington State University (WSU), a former manager of the Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Facility, UC Davis, and her husband, Timothy Lawrence, WSU associate professor and county director, WSU Extension, Island County—are heartbroken. “Eric is an icon of the beekeeping industry and beyond, a career shaper, problem solver, the information man who always had an answer or would find one, and, always given with integrity, regardless of the issue, biological or political, to whoever posed the question and need,” Cobey said. “His contributions, impact and love from the people he touched will live, continuing to contribute

and benefit their lives. His spirit is with us.”

“As an Extension professional, Eric set the standard that I tried to emulate,” said Lawrence. “We had very different approaches but our goals were similar: give people the information they need to make the best decision, based on the current body of scientific knowledge for their given circumstances. Instead of telling folks how to do something, he would listen and guide them on the science and let them make the decisions (and mistakes) on their own. He did this with Sue and me, and we greatly benefited from his mentorship. I observed him apply this approach from hobbyists to large-scale professional beekeepers. He was the preeminent Extension Professional.”

Continued at: <https://ucanr.edu/b/~9dD>

A Life with Bees

Svetlana Maslakova

“For a long, long time — for nearly forty years—I never had any



bees. I can't think why.” These are the opening lines of *A Book of Bees* by Sue Hubbell, and this is how I feel now. A year ago, my husband

George gave me a hive box for my birthday—I think because I was inspired by a beekeeping character in Margaret Atwood's post-apocalyptic novels *The Year of the Flood* and *MaddAddam*. Now, June is a great time to be born if you are a bee, but a bit late to start keeping bees if you haven't the first idea how. By then most suppliers of nucs and packages are sold out for the year, and even if you are lucky and intrepid enough to catch a swarm — “a swarm in June is worth a silver spoon, and a swarm in July isn't worth a fly,” or so they say.

It took me until July to find a good spot to set up a hive stand, assemble a functional hive, and get other necessary equipment. But I was hooked on the idea, and in the following year I read a dozen or more books about bees and beekeeping, attended the Oregon State Beekeepers Association's conference in Florence, and talked about bees to anyone who would listen. I met beekeepers kind enough to answer my questions and offer advice, joined the Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association, and accumulated many more hive boxes (one should never start with just one hive!).

In early April I finally got my first hands-on experience: Babette and Russ Rose graciously allowed me to help hiving a few packages of bees in one of their beeyards near Brookings.

Then, in late April, I got a call from a friend, who reported that

the street in front of her house in Coos Bay—a mere 5 minutes away—is filled with bees. A swarm! I was prepared. It has been cold and rainy for the preceding two weeks, and before that I have been watching a feral colony in a nearby bee tree swelling up and bustling with drones. This is the first sunny and warm day after a long stretch of bad weather. I woke up in the wee hours of the night, checked the weather, and got a feeling I was going to catch a swarm this day. Unable to sleep any longer, I got up and prepared everything I would need for a swarm capture, and thought through various scenarios. What if a swarm is on a low thin branch? On a high and thick branch? On the ground, a post, or a fence? Long story short, I caught and hived that swarm (my first!) surrounded by my three children—my son Misha (11), and my twin daughters Anya and Nadia (7)—and a dozen other spectators. I will never forget the sensation of a ball of bees, about the size of a cantaloupe, surprisingly warm, soft, and fuzzy, leaning against the back of my bare hand.

In the following weeks, the swarm accepted their new home and prospered—to

the point that they are now preparing to swarm again, and I have had to make a split to try to stop them. I also



have two other hives started from nucs—one with a Survivor Stock queen, and the other with a Caucasian queen. My kids are learning to keep bees along with me and loving it. As my daughter Nadia said after a recent hive inspection: “Mama, before we had bees I could not imagine a life with bees, but now I can't imagine a life without bees!”

Note: Svetlana is Associate Professor of Biology and a member of both OSBA and the Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association.

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Keeping Bees in July

Todd Balsiger

Late July brings the end of the nectar flow and the beginning of dearth for most areas.

Typically by late July or early August all supers should be off and hives configured for winter.

Removing supers during dearth can elicit robbing behavior. It is probably better to skip a tiny increase, if that, in honey yield and remove supers before full-blown dearth to avoid the hooligans.

Reduce entrances, especially on weak hives and ones being fed. This will allow them to adequately defend themselves against robbing and reduce yellowjacket predation. For example, instead of 16 inches of opening, make it 3 or 4 inches.

At this time of year, I am looking at consolidation and addressing underperforming hives. Folding up hives and allocating their resources to better prospects probably isn't a bad idea.

European Foulbrood

I took note of comments from Andony Melathopoulos in the April [2020] *Bee Line* regarding European Foulbrood. He mentioned that 2019 was an especially bad year for EFB. I subsequently listened to one of his podcasts about this very issue (podcast #132). The takeaway was that in 2019 EFB had spread extensively in Oregon and indeed anywhere in North America where blueberries are grown. It was stressed not to take EFB lightly, that it can lead to zero honey crop and even colony death. Andony said that the OSU Honey Bee Lab put out a warning about EFB last year [2019]. I missed it. I wish we had stressed the dangers of EFB in our first quarter tips. I recently spoke to OSBA regional representative Tom Cinquini who said he has seen EFB in some of his hives that were placed in blueberries this summer. This matches my observations, too. Tom treated all of his hives in the spring and plans to spot treat for EFB postharvest.

The other main point from the podcast was that, if your bees will be in blueberries or if you have known cases of EFB in your apiary, then a prophylactic treatment of all colonies may be warranted. They have found that, if it is identified in one hive within an apiary, then typically it is found in others, too. The same rationale to treat for EFB in the spring may exist postharvest?

You can visit the OSU Honey Bee Lab website to learn more about how to obtain a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) to make a purchase of antibiotics.

Varroa

As I wrote in the past, I liken the growth of Varroa to a tsunami wave. During the early months the tsunami wave is crossing open waters, you hardly notice. Come late July or early August this tsunami wave is approaching landfall,

and eventually—without intervention—will make landfall and reign destruction. Of course, in this story the initial wave is followed by aftershock waves that represent drifting and robbing which causes the reinfestation of previously mite-controlled hives. Keep this imaginary tsunami wave of Varroa in your mind. Prepare for it. Don't be caught off guard. Know how to deal with it. Be prepared for the aftershock waves.

I'm talking about honey bees . . . Social distancing, wearing PPEs, reducing initial exposure are things that our honey bees simply do not do—just the opposite. We have longer summers now, more brood cycles, and more mites. We've kind of run out of silver bullets.

I'm struck by the question, What percent colony loss do you find acceptable—30, 40, 50 percent? An occasional loss of this magnitude is painful, but consecutive losses of these magnitudes are just physically and monetarily exhausting. I have not been immune; I need to do a better job, too. It has been a boon for the nuc business. Each spring now OSBA members purchase hundreds of nucleus hives.

Are you ready to get off this merry go round? Now is your chance. I believe how well you take care of your bees in the third quarter (July, August, September/early October) to a great extent decides the fate of your hives.

Keep Varroa in check until fall rains come and the robbing season ends. I know it is not easy. I've heard stories of extremely competent beekeepers—even our bee scientists—who've struggled and had to use multiple treatments and were still unsuccessful in getting Varroa below threshold levels. They tried.

As Carolyn Breece reports, "I treat our OSU hives immediately after honey harvest (late July). Some years, our post-treatment mite counts reveal that we still have a mite problem and we need to treat again. So, we treat again in August/early September, but our options are usually limited due to high temperatures. Some years, we have had to treat yet again in late September/October because our mite levels STILL were not in our comfort zone. Why? Was it an ineffective product? Do we have rogue neighbors that don't treat their bees? I don't know the answer, but what I do know for sure is that if I hadn't taken post-treatment samples, I would have thought the bees were just fine after the first round in late July. I would have relaxed all autumn thinking my bees are OK. And then, without a doubt, I would be devastated to find that my hives crashed in winter. Post-treatment sampling is everything!"

I am not going to tell you what to do, or how to do it. I struggle, too. You've got to make a serious attempt though. Maybe the August *Bee Line* will offer some useful tips on how to treat

Varroa effectively without adverse effects to your queens and bees. Meanwhile, I asked Harry Vanderpool to write about the concept of queen sequestration, forcing the mites to become phoretic and hence very vulnerable to an application like oxalic acid. If you only have a few hives—and Harry has hundreds—I'd take a long look at this option or permutations of it.

Adapted from: *The Bee Line*, July 2020.

Note: Please see Ramesh Sagili's current update on brood diseases and queen issues, page 1. Also, a reminder that a listing by location of veterinarians familiar with honey bees and the Veterinary Feed Directive is at: orsba.org/veterinarians. It is updated with additional veterinarians as they become available. A link to a Directive fact sheet appears at the end of that page.



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BEEKEEPER EVENTS

— 2022 —

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. *Information:* apimondia2021.com.

October 1–2: Washington State Beekeepers Association JamborBEE Conference. Othello, Washington. *Information:* wasba.org/events/conference-info/.

October 28–30: OSBA 2022 Fall Conference. Florence Events Center, Florence, Oregon. *Information:* Posted with updates at: orsba.org/osba-fall-conference, as information becomes available.

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

— 2023 —

January 4–8: 2023 American Beekeeping Federation Annual Conference & Tradeshow. Jacksonville, Florida.



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REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

South Coast

Slowly recovering from the social blackout, members of the Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association, media challenged, are beginning to re-establish communications; thus, this first report. In a short order notice the last week of March, we gathered on a Saturday evening to prepare for the arrival of the bee packages the first week of April.

Two hiving demonstrations were featured. Local top bar hive specialist, past president Jim Sorber, showed some of the techniques and adaptations that he has developed in making and using his various designs of top bar hives and swarm catchers. Russ Rose, who gave the Langstroth hiving demo, has given many beekeeping presentations to various groups of southern Oregon and northern California since he and his wife finished the beekeepers' training courses at Humboldt State College.

The Roses, Russ and Babette, who pick up the packages every year for their own apiaries and for the association, took on full responsibility this year, including the financial accounting, a chore that usually goes to the association treasurer. The position, yet to be filled by vote, is managed temporarily by the president, one of the co-founders of the Oregon South Coast association.

After two years of social dark, the gathering celebration included the usual extraordinary potluck and introductions all around, welcoming new and future beekeepers attending from Coos as well as Curry County, and including, "What's the Buzz in our Beeyards." This tale of the apiary overtaken by mean bees definitely riveted the group. One of the six packages, not from the source used by the group, was very aggressive, and then others. Despite all efforts by the beekeeper, eventually—all fifteen colonies were fierce, "untouchable!—they have since been annihilated. Use of CO₂ was a consideration.

Now we hear of two other instances, in distant locations. One that was immediately recognized and eliminated, and one that stung a man who had a heart attack and so was soon dispatched. The June meeting considers changing the meeting day back to the original "Third Thursday" and features the presentation, "On the Spot Queen Rearing" and requeening by Alex Layton, "Doc Alex," an active member. Elections are yet to be, so all officers of pre-pandemic remain except the former treasurer.

Overwintering reports continue to confirm that it is not mites, but moisture that causes the most colony fatalities. This recent winter threw in another deadly twist by concluding a long series of massive rainstorms by suddenly freezing it all.

Mureen Walker

North Willamette Valley

June was a difficult month for some beekeepers in the North Willamette Valley. European Foulbrood (EFB) was prevalent in many backyard beehives as well as commercial pollination hives. In addition to the annual struggle with EFB, we have seen a lot of rain and cooler temperatures. The bees have been very active on the nice days, between rain showers!

It is my opinion that going into June with well-fed colonies is one of the best precautions a beekeeper can take to avoid problems with EFB. I like to stay ahead of EFB problems by feeding supplements to my bees in spring. I use additives in my sugar water. I also like to use microbial supplements which can be especially helpful for nurse bees. These feed supplements are designed to promote healthy digestive and immune systems in individual bees, thus strengthening the health of the colony.

The invasive Himalayan blackberries are blooming now! I don't like that my bees pollinate invasive plants; however, I really like the resulting honey flow. Blackberry nectar is a huge source of nectar for bees in the Willamette Valley and, for many, the largest nectar flow of the year.

Jeremy Mitchell

Regional Associations

Central Oregon

It was snowing in the mountains until early June, then the usual mix from below freezing to the eighties. We're hoping the additional snowfall and the rain will keep the soil a bit damper, and possibly postpone the midsummer irrigation cutoffs a bit and reduce the early fire danger somewhat. But not holding our breaths. Now that it's July, the freezes are past and the third attempted planting of tomatoes and squash will finally prosper.

We had quite an active swarm season. Many of our members not only caught swarms, but themselves had at least one colony swarm. Even some of the early nucs built up enough to swarm. Thankfully, the swarm season here is pretty much over. Also over is our late June dearth, so . . . let the honey production go forth. Speaking of the nuc producers, this has been one of the best years for really "fat" nucs. Hats off to the providers (with some mention to the weather as well).

Here in Central Oregon, we're still getting quite a few very basic beekeeping questions (how do I keep bees) from the public. We will probably continue with our annual or biennial beginning beekeeping school. We've had hybrid meetings the last two months and plan to continue. Attendance has been low but growing, but not nearly up to pre-COVID times. This month we're expecting a great talk by a local expert on butterflies, and in August we're planning on an outdoor picnic/seminar for the association during a weekend day. Our meetings are generally on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 6 to 7:30 PM or so. Please feel invited to join us.

Allen Engle

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Douglas County Bees

Douglas County Bees is experiencing a slow start to our Swarm Call Alerts as well as requests for Extractions/Cut-Outs this year. It makes us wonder if the bees were delayed just like us humans were with getting Spring Fever. So far, the cut-outs we have performed reveal that there are very little honey stores in the hives. There is a lot of brood, but the wet comb is all or mostly all uncapped nectar. We have also taken notice that on a lot of Facebook sites there are increased postings of beekeepers wanting to collect swarms. One more observation is that the blackberries around Douglas County have been blooming for a few weeks now lending thoughts to dearth that will soon be here, too. Is it going to be a short, fast bee season this year?

Beau Miakinkoff

Oregon Central Coast Beekeepers

The association has decided to go back to monthly meetings during the summer and has found a replacement for their meeting location, which is now no longer available in the evenings. The Extension Office in Newport has made their meeting room available starting with the June meeting. The big

item on the agenda is preparing for the Lincoln County Fair July 1-3. This event provides the association with the opportunity to connect with from 3,000 to 5,000 folks who stop at the booth to try to find the queen in the demo hive and to learn a bit about bees and beekeeping.

Max Kuhn

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Okay, by now I was pretty sure we'd be on the verge of complaining about how hot it was getting outside, but that sure isn't happening. In Portland, everything is blooming as it should, but this summer will probably go on record as feeling very short. About this time, I'm always reminded of how the bees are already starting the glide into winter—they're noticing the days getting shorter—all while we're gearing up for peak-summer fun.

Besides Bee Days, many in PUB have missed opportunities to hang out with each other and swap stories and questions. We decided to hold a Meet and Greet evening in mid-June to try to capture some of the feeling of meetings in the "before times." We didn't count it as a monthly meeting (because people are super attached to their monthly zoom meetings), but it was nice to get together and it's likely we'll make these events part of our new normal.

Our June meeting was full of interesting information. After an overview of plants in bloom, Brian Fackler taught us how to use an EpiPen (on an orange!) and provided useful medical information and tips for beekeepers who work in remote areas. Our meeting featured Dr. Dewey Caron talking about all things Queens. It was a great meeting, with a good turnout and lots of interesting discussion and questions. We are wishing all of you a wonderful summer!

Jessica Anderson

Tillamook Beekeepers

The association made the decision to work jointly to raise



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queens for its members and, with the support and assistance of Rick Olson as their queen-raising mentor, they had their first group-grafting session on June 6 with nine association members trying their hand. They were surprised to find that what they thought were tiny larvae were not tiny enough, but,

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after 2 hours of grafting, they have had some initial success and have set up a grafting schedule and calendar which they anticipate will allow them to offer queens to members this summer.

Max Kuhn

with issues relating to Covid to participate, and it allows us to arrange for speakers from distant locations. We are also planning to have our annual summer picnic this July.

Miles Seeley

Willamette Valley Beekeepers

The Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association is happy to have a new home for our meetings. For at least the rest of this year, we are meeting at the Salem Evangelical Church in Salem. Our attendance at meetings has been really good with from 50 to 60 people attending. The paid membership is nearing the 100 mark. If the weather would cooperate, there would be a honey flow beginning. The blackberry is just starting to bloom. The radish seed has been in bloom for a couple of weeks and continues to look good. There were a few days where many swarms issued out and were available to our beekeepers. Swarms seem to be rather large so far this year.

Richard Farrier

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The spring weather has been a bit of an issue for the bees; however, it seems to be turning around. The wild blackberries are getting buds, but have yet to open. Our June meeting will be our first in-person meeting in over 2 years. It is something we are looking forward to. It will be a hybrid meeting with a zoom attendance as an option. Developing a hybrid process has been a challenge. Having a hybrid meeting allows individuals



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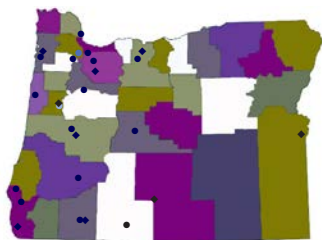
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OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



OSBA OFFICERS

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John Jacob—541.582.2337; oldsolbees@gmail.com

Vice President

Joe Maresh—503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com

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♦ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

North Coast

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

South Coast

Mureen Walker—541.373.7997; mureen98@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

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Note: To renew or join online, please visit:
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Thank you!

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

Renewals are welcome at any time, as are new members.
New member dues received **after August 31** are applied through 2023.



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—*Brother Adam*

The Bee Line

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

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

The next issue to be printed will be the **August 2022** issue. The deadline for submitting copy is **July 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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