



The Bee Line

Volume 47
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August 2022

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

2022 Oregon State Fair is Around the Corner

Bonnie King



Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center/Patrick
Date created: 2017-12-08



Oregon Beekeepers, get ready! Please mark your calendars and join us at the Oregon State Fair, which returns August 26–September 5, 2022. Don't miss it; this is going to be a fair to remember!

In commemoration of OSBA's 100th anniversary, which was technically last year (1921–2021), our 2022 State Fair booth is all about the history of beekeeping in Oregon, with many milestones depicted for the last 300+ years.

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Bee a Contributor!

If you have anything beekeeping related “from yesteryear,” including photographs, veils and other outerwear, miscellaneous bee equipment, or other items that you can lend to us temporarily, please let me know. We are anxious to build a unique and compelling presentation.

We will display a timeline of the arrival of European honey bees in Oregon and other intriguing historical moments. For example:

1693: One of the earliest known shipwrecks in the Pacific Northwest, the galleon *Santo Cristo de Burgos*, left large broken blocks of pure beeswax and candles exposed on Nehalem Spit where the Nehalem River meets the Pacific Ocean.

1854: According to the August 4, 1854, edition of the *Oregon Spectator* (Oregon City), Oregon was favored with “the first fine hive of honeybees, in good working order,” which were brought from the States via Panama, by John Davenport, Esq.

1921: A group of committed beekeepers organized the Oregon State Beekeepers Association in 1921.

1968: Bobby Kennedy visits Oregon and is gifted a jar of honey by the Oregon Honey Queen, Karen Peterson, and program coordinator, Marjie Ehry.

Bee A Competitor!

The honey/products of the hive competition is always a fun and fulfilling activity. Beekeepers of all ages and scopes of experience bring their best honey and products of the hive to the fair to compete with others. Winning a prize for all your hard work is a wonderful reward at the end of the season.

The rules and regs are posted on the Oregon State Fair website, under “Honey and Products of the Hive” (<https://oregonstatefair.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2022-Handbook-HoneyandProductsoftheHive.pdf>).

Online entry deadline is **10 PM, Monday, August 22**; deliver entries on **Tuesday, August 23, 2 PM–7 PM**.

Ribbons will be awarded as merited for the following categories: Best of Division, 1st, 2nd, 3rd for each class, and the Oregon Award.

Continued on page 14

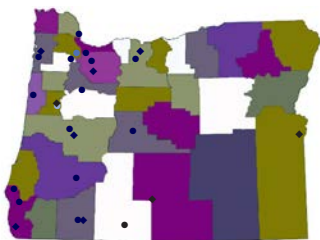
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OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM
*A Joint Venture of OSBA and the
Oregon State University Extension Service*
info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org

Image above: Full-scale model of the James Webb Space Telescope. The hexagonal mirror segments have already provided spectacular images of the universe. All that is being made possible involve both Cooperation and Design, pages that read straight from the honey bee playbook!

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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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

Message from the President

Greetings, fellow beekeepers.

It has been a little while since I have had the time to write. This has been a very challenging year for many, and things are no different here in Southern Oregon. Persistent labor shortages, high fuel prices, Covid challenges, unpredictable weather patterns, and skyrocketing inflation all impact an occupation that is challenging even in the best of times. I sincerely hope that your families and businesses are able to meet these challenges and find ways to prosper.

Unfortunately, the road ahead is looking extremely bumpy for the commercial beekeeping industry. At the time of this writing, there are currently 1.3 billion pounds of almonds sitting at the port in Oakland without an efficient means to ship overseas. Roughly one third of last year's crop remains unsold as we head into 2022 harvest season. The net effect of all this is massive downward pressure on almond prices. This spells trouble for the almond industry that is already beleaguered by a massive persistent drought. There is a certain irony in the fact that the main commodity that is essentially keeping commercial beekeeping alive is experiencing severe price declines in an environment where nearly all other prices are increasing. This means it is going to be very difficult to pass our ever-increasing costs on to our growers, who are hanging on by a thread. Compounding the situation, acreage continues to come out of production in the driest areas of California, potentially setting up some rather nasty market forces that may go to work against pollination prices. Many of the colonies that were used to pollinate the acreage that is no longer in production may still compete for contracts for the remaining acreage. In this environment, having a great relationship with your grower will be supremely important. No matter how healthy this relationship may be, if a grower is on the ropes, they may be forced to cut costs any way they can if they are still lucky enough to have water.

On a more positive note, there is some good news on the honey front. Honey prices have begun to come up a little bit and should continue in that direction. On May 9 this year, the American Honey Producers Association and the Sioux Honey Association won an antidumping case that was before the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) involving Vietnamese honey. That case will likely be appealed and may not bring immediate additional relief; however, it is a huge step in the right direction. This is a great example of how in supporting our

bee organizations and working together we can get great things done. This is where I insert a reminder to support the OSBA centennial research fundraiser here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/100year-anniversary-help-us-save-the-bees-event>.

Back to the subject at hand. With diesel prices extremely high and honey prices coming up, we may find that some operations are more incentivised to skip almond pollination altogether and chase honey flows, thus relieving some of the supply side pressure in the almond pollination market. We still import more honey than we produce in the US, so there is a lot of demand there. We are very lucky to live so close to the almond crop. Trucking from the east coast under these conditions seems like it would be an expensive nightmare. There are also a lot of operations for sale lately. Some of the sellers are just aging out, but many are just tired of the grind. The headwinds our industry faces are strong and the work is very hard. If some of these trends continue, we may find that beekeepers become more rare than bees.

Predicting the future and adapting to change are extremely difficult. I am a firm believer that crisis always presents opportunities. I would never profess to know what the future of beekeeping will look like, but there is the possibility that it could look like this: <https://www.beewise.ag/>. These are robotic bee houses that accommodate 24 hives each. Like the horizontal hive system I designed, these are also solar powered. Where this technology gets interesting is the robotic arm that allows remote manipulation of the frames. This certainly presents the possibility of reduced labor and transportation costs. Who knew that there could be such a thing as a work-from-home commercial beekeeping? I actually saw one of these units during this year's almond pollination. The company is funded and in production. Time will tell if they actually succeed in changing the game. The only truly "known" is that beekeeping will most certainly look different in the future than it does today. Even if virtual beekeeping does become a thing, I know that I will still always need my occasional sting. There will never be a substitute for the sights, sounds, and smells of the natural experience and the ancient partnership between man and bees known as *apiculture*.

Fall conference planning is in full swing, and I do very much look forward to seeing you all in Florence again. Stay tuned for more updates on that. We will again be offering virtual and in-person attendance, and it will be a great opportunity to learn, commiserate, and communicate.

May you and your bees be well.

John Jacob

Oregon State Beekeepers Association

🌿 2022 Fall Conference Registration Form 🌿

October 28, 29 & 30, 2022

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: _____ Undecided: _____

*Conference programs will be mailed to online and undecided 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 all registrants until December 31, 2022.

Event			Cost
Friday Night Hospitality Room			Complimentary
Full Conference ^{1,4}	Online Member Individual - \$100		
	Online Nonmember - \$140		
	In-Person Member Individual - \$150		\$
	In-Person Nonmember Individual - \$190		\$
	In-Person Member Family - \$180		
In-Person Nonmember Family - \$220			
Encaustic Painting (Limit: 30) ²	\$20 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Beekeeping Basics (Limit: 40)	No Additional Cost	Number Attending: _____	\$
Saturday Luncheon	\$22 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Saturday Banquet	\$55 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Sunday Luncheon	\$22 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Note: Please indicate any special dietary needs, including vegetarian: _____			
Research Donation ³			\$
Annual OSBA Dues ⁴	\$40 per Person	Number: _____	\$
TOTAL ^{5, 6}			\$

1) Attendees qualify for preregistration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before October 8. No refunds after October 14, 2022. Late online registration 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). Nonmember conference price includes a complimentary OSBA membership for 2023.

5) Checks payable to OSBA; mail with completed registration form, **postmarked no later than October 14**, to: **Oregon State Beekeepers Association, 2022 Fall Conference, 89135 Spindrift Way, Florence OR 97439.**

6) Hotel reservations are not included in these costs. Special rates may be available. See: orsba.org.

OSBA 2022 Fall Conference Tentative Agenda

Friday, October 28

10:00 AM–NOON Encaustic Painting Workshop* (Backstage of the Auditorium)

George Hansen, Foothills Honey Company

1–4 PM Beekeeping Basics (Auditorium)

Dewey Caron, University of Delaware, Emeritus

4:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting (Conference Room)

5:00 PM Registration & Submit Auction Items (Lobby)

5–6:00 PM Submit Honey Show Entries (Green Room)

7:00 PM Evening Social (Events Area)

Saturday, October 29

7:00 AM Registration (Lobby)

7:45 AM Welcome & Announcements (Auditorium)

John Jacob or Joe Maresh, OSBA

8:00 AM Women in Beekeeping (Auditorium)

Tammy Horn Potter, Kentucky Department of Agriculture

8–9 AM Submit Honey Show Entries (Green Room)

9:00 AM Profile of a Comprehensive Beekeeping Company

John Gibeau, Honeybee Centre, Surrey, British Columbia

10:00 AM Break (Lobby | Exhibitor Area)

10:30 AM Title TBA

Russell Heitkam, Heitkams' Honey Bees

11:15 AM Title TBA

Ellen Topitzhofer, Oregon State University

NOON Introduction to OSU's New Dean of College of Agricultural Sciences

Staci Simonich, Oregon State University

12:10 PM Break

12:15 PM Luncheon* (Events Area)

Presentation: Title TBA

Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University

1:45 PM Data-Driven Best Practices for Small Apiaries

Kelly Kulhanek, Washington State University Bee Program

2:30 PM Pollinator Habitat

Tammy Horn Potter, Kentucky Department of Agriculture

3:30 PM Break (Lobby | Exhibitor Area)

4:00 PM Listed Bumble Bees in the Western US, and What Comes Next

Jeff Everett, US Fish and Wildlife

4:45 PM General Membership Meeting (Auditorium)

6:00 PM Social Hour (Events Area)

7:00 PM Banquet* (Events Area)

Presentation: Title and Presenter TBA

Sunday, October 30

7:00 AM Registration (Lobby)

7:45 AM Welcome & Announcements (Auditorium)

John Jacob or Joe Maresh, OSBA

8:00 AM Integrated Pest Management for Varroa—Novel Approaches from the WSU Bee Program

Kelly Kulhanek, Washington State University Bee Program

9:00 AM You Too Can Kick the Habit: Commercial Success Using Different Mite Controls

Russell Heitkam, Heitkams' Honey Bees

9:45 AM Break (Lobby | Exhibitor Area)

10:15 AM Commercial Beekeeping in British Columbia and Alberta, Canada

John Gibeau, Honeybee Centre, Surrey, British Columbia

11:15 AM OSU Research Projects

Presenter TBA

NOON Break (Lobby | Exhibitor Area)

12:15 PM Luncheon* (Events Area)

Panel: The Symbiotic Relationship Between the Commercial and the Hobby Beekeeping Industry

Panelists TBA

1:20 PM Honey Auction (Events Area)

1:45 PM Title TBA

Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University

2:30 PM Break (Lobby | Exhibitor Area)

2:45 PM Title TBA

Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon State University

3:45 PM Final Comments & Adjourn

John Jacob or Joe Maresh, OSBA

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

Session recordings will be available to all registrants until December 31, 2022.

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Keeping Bees in August

Matt Allen

Every month is a busy month for a beekeeper, but August is particularly important. The weather is hot and dry, maybe with the occasional thunderstorm. It feels like the peak of summer, but this critical month is when we need to start thinking towards winter. It's time to strip the rest of your honey crop. Will they be heavy enough for winter or will you need to feed? Are there enough bees in the hive? Will the queen be viable until next spring? And probably most important for this month is, Are your mite levels under control?

August is the month to harvest the remainder of your honey. In many locations, even earlier. By mid-August, most marketable honey flows have tapered off. Pull your supers and start to focus on fall. Buckwheat is a notable exception. Be aware that, if you decide to go after this potential honey crop, it may be difficult to get your mite levels under control in a timely manner. Make sure you have a plan in place. More on that later.

Queens availability will also begin to taper off at this point in the year. It is important to realize that new queens will not be available again until next spring. Are your queens laying a strong pattern? Do they have a good retinue? If the colony is weak or spotty, now is a good time to requeen. Requeening now, in concert with timely feeding, allows enough time and resources for a weak colony to turn around and build up before winter. If your queens are failing now, they will be failing in a month and failing in the spring. Failing queens are a major cause of colony loss in the spring. Replace her while you still can. It is generally easier to find queens in August than in September, and definitely easier to find queens in August than in March.

How big are your colonies? If a colony is not solidly filling a box and a half with bees, it will require some additional attention. What is the brood pattern like? If spotty or drone-y, it may need requeening. A steady diet of supplemental protein and sugar syrup may work to build up some small colonies, provided strong queens and healthy brood. Otherwise, it is a good idea to start combining weaker colonies to get them ready for winter. Be sure to ask yourself why a colony may be small before combining. Combining sick colonies with healthy ones may be detrimental to your operation (AFB!!).

There are many opinions regarding supplemental feeding in the fall. At the minimum, it is a good idea to heft your hives to get a feel for weight. If it feels moderate or light, feed. If it hurts your fingers to heft, it might not need feeding. It's a good idea to look at those extra heavy hives. They could be queen-less or weak. Regardless of weight, you might consider supplemental syrup and/or pollen feeding in order

to stimulate brood rearing and help carry brood rearing later into the fall. This can help ensure a large healthy young population headed into winter.

Lastly, and probably most importantly for August, is the ever-present issue of Varroa. August is a critical month for Varroa management. Take an alcohol wash sample. August brood will become the bees that raise your winter bees. If you have not read Randy Oliver's series on Fat Bees, you should. If you have, great. Re-read it. This series does a great job of explaining exactly why you need to have your mite levels down in August and keep them down through the remainder of the brood-rearing season. You can find the article here: scientificbeekeeping.com/fat-bees-part-1. There are 4 parts. Boiling it down, Fat winter bees have increased vitellogenin in fat bodies to help carry them through winter and give them the energy and nutrition to commence brood rearing in the early spring. The amount of vitellogenin corresponds directly to how well fed they are as larvae, which corresponds to a large healthy population of nurse bees. The health of these nurse bees depends on having low parasite levels when they were developing. That is why August is so critical. August brood raises the brood that raises winter bees.

A side note, we now know that Varroa feeds not on hemolymph, but directly on fat body tissue (Ramsey et al. 2019). In addition to being critical for winter, the fat body, with vitellogenin, much like our liver, also provides some important detoxification function in bees.

Formic Acid, Thymol, and Amitraz are all reasonable treatments this time of year. Make sure you READ AND UNDERSTAND the label before applying. Each material and formulation of each material has its own requirements for maximum efficacy and beekeeper safety. THE LABEL IS THE LAW! After you treat, take another mite sample to gauge the efficacy of your treatment. For a detailed look at available management tools and monitoring techniques, check out this PDF from the Honey Bee Health Coalition: https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/HBHC-Guide_Varroa_Interactive_7thEdition_June2018.pdf. I have noticed a real challenge is not only getting Varroa mite levels low, but also keeping them low through the remainder of the fall. Be vigilant and continue treatments as necessary.

Keep in mind, when shopping for feed and treatments, supply houses are backed up this year and may take longer than expected. Plan ahead.

Enjoy the honey harvest. Smile at those big healthy bees. Happy Beekeeping!

Note: Reprinted from the August 2021 issue of *The Bee Line*.

BEEKEEPER EVENTS

— 2022 —

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.

August 27, 9 AM–3 PM: SOBA Summer Bee School.

OSU Extension Building, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point. Registration: www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org.

September 25: SAVE the BEE 5K. Richardson Park on Fern Ridge Reservoir. Save the date!

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.



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LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR EVENTS—Affiliated associations seeking a certificate of liability insurance for events this year, please remember: (1) Events must be announced prior in media such as newsletter or website. (2) The information needed for making the request is **Date**, **Time(s)**, and **Place** of the event, **AND** the **Name**, **Title**, **email address**, and **Phone number** of the **Person in charge of the facility**. (3) When this information has been gathered, contact Harry Vanderpool at shallotman@yahoo.com to request the certificate.

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Associations

Central Oregon

I imagine we're similar to the rest of Oregon. Only a few days in June and July above 90. BUT . . . much more rain than usual. We have had lots of forage, both native and domestic. We're currently doing a poll as to how the honey production has been going during the early summer. The other question on many folk's minds is how all the additional brush and grass will fare when things start drying out during the fire season. We definitely wish everyone in Oregon a calm and minimal fire season this year.

Going back to June, our polling indicated that most of our members didn't experience swarming with their hives, and likewise most of them didn't capture any swarms. This is kind of unusual for the central Oregon area as we usually have quite an active swarm season, both the giving and the getting. We'll need to do a little more research to verify if that is just sampling error or there were actually fewer swarms.

In June, we had a wonderful presentation by several of our members on gadgets they have created or use. From queen introducers for a Warre hive to an extraction device for entrance reducers, and a different style of entrance device for a Langstroth hive which both reduced robbing as well as helped with wintering. It's always impressive how creative beekeepers are in coming up with solutions for problems they've experienced.

In July we had wonderful talk about the butterflies of Central Oregon by a local expert, including what plants to use to encourage them. In August we're planning on a field day in lieu of a meeting with outdoor learning.

Please feel invited to join any of our meetings. Most are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The Environmental Center in Bend. See www.cobeekeeping.org for more information.

Allen Engle

Douglas County Bees

Douglas County Bees is gearing up to participate in the Douglas County Fair for 2022. We will be there August 10–13. Stop by our booth, say "Hi." We are also planning on being at the Blackberry Festival in Sutherlin August 20 and 21. September 16–18 we plan on being at the Winston Melon Festival! If you are in the area, please drop in and chat a bit with us. Our swarm and cut-out season was not as huge as last year, but nonetheless still busy with 25 cut-outs and 34 swarm alerts.

Beau Miakinikoff

Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Here in the Klamath Basin, we are having a busy year. We had

a great turn out for bee school with close to 50 people in attendance. New beekeepers had the opportunity to learn the basics, practice queenspotting, and attend a field day focused on doing



Christy VanRooyen

hive inspections. A special thank you to all of our donors who contributed to bee school, and particularly to Mann Lake Bee and Ag Supply in White City, who offered all of our new beeks discounted equipment. After bee school, our next meeting was our Spring Kickoff Event that included a bee-themed raffle and a smoker lighting contest along with a discussion on preparing hives for spring. We have had a number of excellent speakers at our monthly meetings. In February, Paul Stromberg shared on queen rearing. In April, the Oregon Tech Student Beekeepers taught a lesson on splitting hives. In May, our association president Lorena Corzatt shared on planting for bees just in time for outdoor gardening in our area. In June, a young professional beekeeper Wyatt Smith along with his sister Mattie shared some tips of the trade with our group. We are blessed to have so many active beekeepers in our region willing to share their expertise. Our meetings occur on the last Saturday of the month at the Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center at 9 AM.

The year 2022 is proving to be challenging for beekeepers. We had an early spring in January followed by a second winter in May causing beekeepers to have to alter typical feeding schedules. Swarms started earlier than usual and have continued to be buzzing. Our swarm response team has been exceptionally busy, and we are grateful to all of those who voluntarily participate. The other day we responded to a swarm call which turned out to be a nesting ground for *Peponapis*



Julia Knight

pruinosa (Squash Bee) and not honey bees. We used Board members Lorena Corzatt and Terri Torres respond to a swarm call.

this opportunity to educate the homeowner about native bees. Honey bee colony overwintering success was very high this year, and many are expecting a banner honey crop.

We hope that all of our beekeeping friends across Oregon are doing well! We invite you to join our online community on Facebook at Klamath Basin Beekeeping Association or to check out our website at klamathbeekeepers.org.

Christy VanRooyen

Lane County Beekeepers

The association has resumed meeting in person for monthly

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gatherings. Attendance is lower than pre-Covid days, but numbers have ranged in the 30–50 member crowd. Leadership offers a recording of our meetings and programs to those who still choose to avoid in-person meetings. However, the recordings are not live.

Association membership renewals have been strong, and new memberships in April–June have been encouraging. Overall budget situation has been positive, though expenses have been lower due to reduced participation in local events. Board members met in mid-July to discuss our schedule of topics for the remaining months ahead and future leadership candidates.

Our resumed presence at the Lane County Fair in July was welcomed by all who helped out, and it felt good to mingle with the public to chat about bees. To close, many of us are also hoping for a mild fire season in Oregon with less smoke in the air to constrain our bees from bringing in honey stores.

Brian McGinley

Portland Metro Beekeepers

What a season the Willamette Valley has had! For Portland Metro Beekeepers Association (PMBA), our heaviest nectar flow by far is the blackberry bloom in June. However, several false starts to spring led to a later-than-usual nectar flow, and beekeepers who had booming colonies at the start of the season found their honey stores beginning to dwindle during weeks of a wetter-than-usual spring. Some association members reported starvation or near-starvation conditions as their colonies struggled to survive the battering rain. Many also observed a punctuated swarm season, with large swarms as late as early July. In general, though with a few exceptions, Portland Metro Beekeepers are preparing for the possibility of a dismal 2022 honey harvest. Many are turning their attention to building

up colony strength as we enter some of the most challenging conditions in our region: The summer dearth.

With the main regional nectar flows behind us, our association members are checking mite loads, treating when needed, and offering supplemental feed. It's also a good time to harvest honey, though discretion is urged given the poor spring nectar flow conditions experienced in our region. As the mercury climbs, it's hard to imagine winter is right around the corner, but now is definitely the time to begin preparations for getting bees through the winter successfully.

We also have plenty to look forward to as we gear up for PMBA's annual association picnic in mid-August. Members will enjoy a potluck, live music, prize giveaways, and socialization. Both seasoned beekeepers and newbies alike are sure to have lots of stories to share as we reflect on what has certainly been an unusual season thus far.

Jamie Caldwell

Portland Urban Beekeepers

I've never been so happy and grateful for the lovely Linden trees. A wet spring, lasting up until July, finally gave way to gorgeous summer sun just in time for the Linden trees to bloom across NE Portland. This is a major source of nectar for inner NE bees. Last year, the trees bloomed just as the 115-degree weather hit for a week which quickly dried up the trees, leaving my primary hive to begin eating its stores mid-summer. This year the supers are bursting with lots of time left to fill their brood chambers. Meanwhile, other hives 2 miles away are barely filling supers, unaware of the bounty nearby. I love this cyclical pace to beekeeping—there are years that give and years that take and every year is a little bit different.

We are hoping to reinstate a sort of honey tasting or in-person social event to close out the year, and we hope to see you there!

Jessica Anderson



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Southern Oregon Beekeepers

A summer favorite in the Rogue Valley is the Children's Festival at Britt Gardens in Jacksonville. Volunteers work in the Science area for 3 days showing bees and sharing games to educate about bees. We used educational cards from Oregon Bee Project to engage visitors by

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asking them to vote for their favorite bee and giving out honey sticks. *Leslie Lundgren*

on her that one of our members found on her bottom board. Either we have been more observant this year or the mites are worse, but either way, we are noticing more mites and doing a much better job at controlling them.



We are also in the process of getting ready for the annual Tillamook County Fair to be held August 11 through August 13 at Tillamook County Fairgrounds. This event is our biggest community interface of the year. We will again have an observation hive, honey sales, and honey judging for the entire county (not just members of the TBA). We will be selling raffle tickets for the horizontal handcrafter hive and, of course, raffling off said hive on the last day of the fair.

Hundreds from the community flock to our booth every year to learn more about the honey bee, her plight, and how they can either become a beekeeper or learn what they can do to help keep the honey bee safer.

Our bees had a hard spring and therefore a slow start on the season, but once summer truly arrived, the bees sprang into action and the majority of our colonies are thriving and producing tons of honey. It really looks like this will be a momentous year for the Tillamook Honey Bee.

Brad York

Tillamook Beekeepers

Mites, mites, and more mites. The stinkin’ Varroa Destructor is our theme for the past couple of weeks.

We have been encouraging our members to check, check often, and treat as much as practicable to keep their colonies as safe as possible. We have been using this link https://cantilever-instruction.com/varroatool/story_html5.html from the Honey Bee Health Coalition and their new Management Decision Tool. The tool helps you decide which treatment is best for the specific conditions of your hive in current time. Highly recommended to all beekeepers.

Here is a picture of a poor solo worker bee with at least 7 mites



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Continued from page 1

Bee a Booth Volunteer!

We Want You! Please join us in the booth. The 2022 State Fair volunteer sign-up sheet is posted online, and anyone who has the link can fill in their own name/contact info. Everyone on the schedule will receive a letter from me explaining the details in advance of the fair.

We are in the Floral Building again this year, just to the north of Columbia Hall, in a very open, visible location. The building is air conditioned, the restrooms are close by, and we have access to a kitchen/refrigerator.

All volunteers get fair passes and free parking, and water bottles are provided. Please sign up and bring a friend! I hope you all can make it. It's going to be a "historic year"!

Contact Bonnie King at BonJKing@gmail.com.

GloryBee's SAVE the BEE Update

Dear friends at OSBA,

SAVE the BEE began as a social responsibility initiative of GloryBee ten years ago, and to date we have raised and contributed over \$850,000 to research, education, advocacy, pesticide reform, and creation of pollinator habitat. As we gear up to propel SAVE the BEE into the national spotlight as an independent nonprofit, we have hired our first Executive Director!

The stars aligned when our job posting caught the eye and imagination of Catie Coman, who brings 20-plus years of experience in managing national nonprofits to SAVE the BEE. Catie has worked in development, raising over \$20 million in her career to date. She's been a VP of Marketing and Communications and has extensive experience in digital media platforms and brand strategy. And she's been an Executive Director, mastering organizational and board development. While the nonprofits she has worked for have served the arts, social services, international development, and health, Catie has also been a beekeeper for ten years, and the thought of shifting her professional talents to bees brings her much delight. Catie and I have had three weeks of overlap to ensure a smooth transition.

I am grateful for my time at the helm of SAVE the BEE, and it has been thoroughly enjoyable working with Oregon State Beekeepers Association. We are excited for the prospects of the next decade, and we hope you are, too. Thank you for your support!

With warm regards,

Lynne Fessenden

Save the Bee & Environmental Stewardship Manager

Amitraz Resistance Testing

The Honey Bee Health Coalition, working in partnership with Dr. Frank Rinkevich at the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Lab in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is entering into the fourth year of a project to determine the extent of amitraz resistance in Varroa mites (*Varroa destructor*) in managed honey bee colonies in the U.S.

Amitraz is widely used by beekeepers across the U.S. as the most effective means of controlling Varroa mites. However, as with several other miticides, Varroa mites have developed resistance to amitraz. There is good evidence that some beekeepers are already beginning to see amitraz resistance levels that result in failure to control Varroa populations. Effective control of Varroa will depend on utilizing alternative miticides and implementing more integrated pest management (IPM) strategies all of which begins with understanding how, when and where resistance develops as well as monitoring Varroa populations.

We are looking for 100 beekeepers who keep at least 10 or more hives and who are willing to participate in our project. The beekeepers, whose identities will be kept confidential, will need to sample 10 hives in one or more of their apiaries that have Varroa infestations and agree to send in their results to USDA-ARS. Hives should be sampled in August or September before miticide application. Beekeepers will receive an amitraz resistance testing kit, including the Apivar(R) (3.3% amitraz) strips used in the assay and all instructions on how to conduct the test. The protocol and datasheets can be viewed by prospective participants to understand the testing procedure. This video of the protocol will give beekeepers a visual demonstration of the testing process. Beekeepers can expect the testing to take a full day. In exchange, beekeepers will need to agree to send back their collected data as a photo via text message to Frank Rinkevich at 225-276-3998 or as a scanned document via email to Frank.Rinkevich@usda.gov. Once the results of the test are received, Dr. Rinkevich will discuss viable treatment options based on the results. If the data indicates valuable Varroa samples, a prepaid shipping label will be sent to the cooperator to mail the Varroa samples to Dr. Rinkevich. A final analysis of the data will be distributed to all participants and presented at beekeeping conferences.

Ultimately, and in subsequent years, we hope to expand this project to include larger numbers of beekeepers from all over the U.S. and Canada sending in their data and to begin building a robust data set to track amitraz resistance.

Please send emails expressing intent to participate as well as any questions about the amitraz resistance monitoring program to Frank D. Rinkevich at frank.rinkevich@usda.gov or 225-276-3998. The deadline to request amitraz resistance testing kits is September 30, 2022.



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: _____

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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

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

Voluntary contribution(s):

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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.

Renewals are welcome at any time, as are new members.

New member dues received **after August 31** are applied through 2023.



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

2022 World Bee Day: August 20

So many kinds of bees! So much to appreciate! So very much yet to learn!

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 **September 2022** issue. The deadline for submitting copy is **August 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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