



The Bee Line

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Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Another Mite to Fight

Alison McAfee



IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Another Mite to Fight	1
Executive Committee Minutes	3
Amer Beekeeping Fed Update	4
Oregon Master Beekeeper	4
Keeping Bees in September	7
Fall Conference Updates	8
Tentative Agenda	9
Conference Registration	10
Beekeeper Events	11
Regional News	11
Executive Committee	16
Membership Form	17

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OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM
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info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org

Image above: Bee forage in Florence, a town soon to meet up with an influx of enthusiastic beekeepers! See pages 8–10 for information. Updates will be posted at: <https://orsba.org/osba-fall-conference/>.

Note: Appreciation to Samuel Ramsey, USDA Bee Research Lab, Beltsville, who provided this excerpt from *American Bee Journal* and presented “Fight the Mite Thailand Edition: Understanding the Mysterious Tropilaelaps Mite” during our 2021 OSBA Fall Conference.

Varroa isn't the only mite that has jumped hosts to Western honey bees

The video was nothing short of frightening. Tiny, brown, slender-bodied creatures were scurrying hither-dither on the rims of the comb, and they were scurrying fast. They were everywhere, and they had places to be. I listened, sitting in the audience at Apimondia, Montreal, as Dr. Samuel Ramsey introduced this strange new parasite while we all watched the clip. I mourned for the mite-stricken colony, which was near certain death; however, the infesting mites were not the usual suspects. They were not *Varroa*, but something worse. They were *Tropilaelaps*.

Tropilaelaps mites were first identified on rats near honey bee colonies in the mid-20th century. Now, we know that the mites come in at least four species: *T. thaii*, *T. koenigerum*, *T. clareae*, and *T. mercedesae*, with the latter being the biggest threat to managed bees. They are normally parasites of the giant honey bees (*Apis breviligula*, *A. dorsata*, and *A. laboriosa*), but at some point, they jumped hosts to *A. mellifera*. The mites are a nuisance to the giant honey bees, but infestations are generally not severe because the giant honey bees have evolved resistance mechanisms, such as colony migration, brood entombment, and open nesting, all of which our beloved *A. mellifera* lacks.



This probably sounds too familiar. An almost identical scenario occurred with *Varroa* jumping hosts from the Asian honey bee, *A. cerana*, to *A. mellifera*. Just as the giant honey bees have evolved strategies to resist *Tropilaelaps*, the Asian honey bees have evolved strategies to resist *Varroa*. Unfortunately, *A. mellifera* is not so hardy against either parasite. When *Varroa* spread west, it devastated the industry. Today, *Tropilaelaps* has not yet spread to Europe, Australia nor the Americas, but it is probably only a matter of time.

In his talk, Ramsey warned that we know dangerously little about *Tropilaelaps*, and that we should be doing more to learn about it. A lot of what we do know is information we've borrowed from *Varroa*, but sometimes even that can be utterly wrong. For example, for decades we thought that *Varroa* fed only on hemolymph, but because of Ramsey's research, we now know that *Varroa* actually feeds on the bee's fat body. What *Varroa* eats might seem like small potatoes, but it's a fundamental shift in our understanding of the parasite's basic biology. And the value of basic biology shouldn't be underrated — all applications are founded by basic science — a philosophy not lost on Ramsey.

Ramsey has been developing a new way to study the life cycle and behaviour of *Tropilaelaps* and *Varroa* mites using carefully-crafted brood cells with built-in windows

to peer inside. He lets the mites naturally invade, then records their activities with a high-resolution video camera to study their behaviors. The mites have no privacy, and the videos he showed us were astonishing. It felt like getting a glimpse at the hidden world of torture beneath the cap. The creeping mites made the freshly capped larvae writhe grotesquely. It's all the larvae can do, as they have nowhere to go. They look totally helpless as the mites go about their business, tearing and poking feeding holes, laying eggs, copulating, and starting their families.

Sometimes, borrowing information from Varroa is fine, but Tropilaelaps is also a unique monster. For example, with his videos, Ramsey and his colleagues can see that while Varroa creates one or two communal feeding holes on a developing bee for the whole family to use, Tropilaelaps tears many holes all over the larva's body. Other researchers have found that while brood parasitized by Varroa are usually stunted but don't die, considerable brood death can be caused by Tropilaelaps. If they do live, the emerged adults typically suffer from greater damage or deformities. Furthermore, while Varroa can feed on adult bees and live for weeks as hitch-hikers, Tropilaelaps can't feed on adults and they re-infest new brood cells within a few days. And these differences in infestation strategies will affect how we (and the bees) can manage the parasite.

Some of Tropilaelaps' quirks are both a blessing and a curse. Since the mites spend very little time outside brood cells, only

treatment methods that can target brood cells are expected to be effective. But the fact that Tropilaelaps can't piggyback for very long (four to nine days) also means it's tougher for them to survive the journey with a sea-going swarm (ships accidentally transporting swarms is one way that dispersal can fly under the radar) or illegally imported queens and packages, making it easier for countries to protect against invasion.

For the same reason, we didn't expect Tropilaelaps to persist in geographic regions that have broodless winters, since this means the mites should be systematically wiped out once a year (unlike Varroa, which can overwinter wedged between the bee's abdominal tergites, or exoskeletal plates). This was good news for Canada and the Northern U.S., but we have already been proven wrong. If Tropilaelaps does move west, it will be a formidable foe.

In Asia, where Tropilaelaps and Varroa coexist, Tropilaelaps is the more prevalent mite. It is the one on which beekeepers focus . . .

Funding Research: You Make It Happen!

- ❖ Donations to OSBA conference auctions (see page 8)
- ❖ The **Centennial Fundraiser**, with its generous match from GloryBee, in support of the OSU Honey Bee Lab
- ❖ The **Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education** set up by OSBA in 2007

Information: See details at <https://orsba.org/donations/>.

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OSBA Board Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2022

Attendees: John Jacob, Joe Maresh, Harry Vanderpool, Barbara Derkacht, Alan Engle, Carolyn Breece, Jan Lohman, Jeremy Mitchell, Linda Zahl, Mike Rodia, Mureen Walker, Pat Wackford, Paul Stromberg, Tom Cinquini

President John Jacob called the meeting to order at 6:05.

Minutes – a motion made by Joe Maresh and seconded by Jan Lohman to approve the minutes of the May 9th meeting as published In The Bee Line (which do not include the treasurer's report) passed.

Discussion followed as to what should be included in minutes available to the public. Because the organization's financial records are open to association members but not to the general public, it was suggested that the treasurer's report be kept separate from the minutes.

Treasurer's Report – none at this time

Conference Report – Joe Maresh

- Pat Heitkam will be the banquet speaker
- Ramesh Sagili will speak during one lunch
- Dewey Caron will present a bee school segment
- A panel discussing the relationship between commercial and hobby beekeepers will be offered during another lunch
- See The Bee Line for conference agenda; several speaking spots are still open; some OSU students will be presenting; Carolyn Breece has lined up OSU students to speak
 - Mustafa Bozkus – EFB and oxalic acid vapor
 - Ellie Chapkin or Bri Price on research they're doing
 - Jen Larson on the 10-year Anniversary of the Master Beekeeper Program; perhaps some who've finished the program could speak about what they've done and how it's helped their beekeeping; offered on Friday
- Meals – banquet will feature beef and halibut (instead of salmon) and will cost \$5 more than last year's banquet. Lunches will also cost OSBA more but the association will absorb that difference.
- Social – food offered would be more expensive with the inclusion of shrimp
- Auction – Becca and Max Simon will work together on this
- Vendors
 - Fee schedule will be the same: \$125/table
 - Vendor contacts will be made by Jan, Joe, John, Becca, and Rosanna (?) who has the master list

- Cost of attending – mostly the same except that online only attendance would be \$100
- Issue with printing registration form – no black on gray parts, please – it all comes out black
- Planning group will meet over Zoom Sunday, August 14 at 6 PM
- Commercial Beekeepers workshop
 - Possible topics
 - Regulatory rules
 - Trucking rule changes
 - OSHA changes
 - Crop pollination
 - Other pollination
 - Funding for this offering – grant money for this has run out; OSU could offer funding; donations could be solicited; OSBA could fund some
 - Speakers may get an honorarium
 - Attendees could be charged a fee (\$10-20) each
 - For this year, OSU will fund travel and honorariums for speakers and OSBA will provide facility and food for the session
 - A group will meet to craft policy language around OSBA's support of this workshop

Regional Representative Reports

Jeremy Mitchell reported that he's been getting a lot of calls for swarms in structures, which is a problem as there are few people who do structural cut-outs. Could this be a future conference session topic: how to do cut-outs, is this a different bee-related business opportunity?

Association President Reports

- Linda Zahl reported that Columbia County beekeepers are enthusiastic as there's lots of honey this year. They're going to have an extraction party. There are generally low mite counts, perhaps due to oxalic acid use. Meetings are hybrid.
- Allen Engle reported that the Bend association is having hybrid meetings. They've got an upcoming Bee Day event. He'll encourage people to come to the conference.
- Joe Maresh reported that Portland Metro Beekeepers are also having hybrid meetings. The nectar flow has been good but is slowing. There are EFB problems for many who are doing pollination travel with their bees. Some are seeing mite loads creeping up.
- Mureen Walker reported that in the South Coast Association nectar is still flowing, and they're busy helping new beekeepers.

OSU Foundation Reports

Jan Lohman shared fund balances and noted that

Continued on page 15

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The American Beekeeping Federation

Jan Lohman

Beekeeping has become more and more difficult as years go by. Lack of foraging, queen issues, locations for housing bees and of course our favorite roadblock Varroa mites all play a part in managing honey bee colonies.

We have signed on to a very difficult profession or hobby by choosing beekeeping as our career or fun activity. One thing that makes the pain all worthwhile, besides seeing some fantastic sunsets and sunrises, is the comradery of other beekeepers.

The American Beekeeping Federation has so many opportunities to offer you as a beekeeper. The Quarterly ABF Magazine, on-demand beekeeping education, updates on government relations and legislation, and an annual conference held in a different part of the country every year.

Membership for small-scale beekeepers is as little as \$60 annually and up to commercial rates at \$300 per year. Please consider joining this great group of beekeepers. Oregon has two delegates for the American Beekeeping Federation: Dr. Dewey Caron and Kerry Haskins.

The American Beekeeping Federation is celebrating its 80th year in 2023! Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Florida, January 3–7 at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront. Speakers will include Dr. Samuel Ramsey, Diana L. Cox-Foster, Jay Evans, and Oregon's own Dr. Dewey Caron. It is a great way to enjoy wonderful temperatures, while learning so much more about beekeeping and rubbing elbows with some of the nicest people you will ever know.

The Oregon Master Beekeeper Program in Spanish

Carolyn Breece

The first year of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program in Spanish has been fantastico! We started with a field day in May. It was a gorgeous



sunny day in the middle of our very rainy spring. We had 14 participants come to the OSU educational apiary for a day of honey bees and camaraderie, entirely in Spanish. We did hive inspections in small groups, focusing first on honey bee basics. Special thanks to Dewey Caron, Pedro Vera, Gilberto Uribe, and Omar Sales for leading the groups. After lunch, Dewey Caron gave a short lecture on spring management. Then we went back to the bees for Varroa sampling and additional practice with frame handling, queen spotting, and inspecting for health and well-being. The participants came from Eugene, Salem, and Corvallis. Some managed colonies for community gardens, others were simply interested in honey bees and are hoping to start colonies soon.

In July, we gathered again to learn about summer management and honey production! We inspected colonies, discussed supering, and sampled for Varroa (always!). Because we did not have honey ready for extraction yet, we demonstrated honey extraction with equipment rented from Shonnard's Nursery. Dewey Caron delivered another spectacular lesson in

Spanish on best practices with the honey harvest. Afterwards, we set up a honey tasting with 8 different varieties of honey (thank you Jeremy Mitchell and Delsey Maus of Flying Bee Ranch!). The new beekeepers were delighted at the differences in flavors.

Our participants are so obsessed with honey bees that many of them attended OSU's Bee Beard Day and wore a bee beard!

Our next field day will be in September. We will round out the season with a workshop on honey bee diseases and how to successfully overwinter colonies.



Meanwhile, OSU grad student Jousy Hidrobo had been recording the Oregon Master Beekeeper classes for participants to watch online. She's doing an incredible job!

Stay tuned to hear more about our first graduates, our next group in 2023, and our plans for commercial beekeeper workshops in Spanish.

This effort would never be possible without the work and support from many wonderful people. Muchas gracias to Dewey Caron, Pedro Vera, Rita Ostrofsky (did you know she's fluent in Spanish??), Gilberto Uribe, Omar Sales, Jousy Hidrobo, Jan Lohman, and Ramesh Sagili.

Note: For more information about the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, visit: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb>.

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Keeping Bees in September

Ken Ograin

Well, just when you think you have everything figured out mother nature throws us another curve. The year started out fine, then it started raining again and again. One thing good about all that rain is it set those yellowjacket queens back a few weeks building nests; it was late July here in Elmira before I saw any worker yellowjackets. The bad part of all that rain was pollination of fruit, which was sporadic; my Bartlett pear is loaded and the Bosc pear has none. They were in bloom about 10 days apart.

I am hoping September is close to normal when it comes to honey bees and mites. Honey bees should be producing winter fat bees, and Varroa populations should be decreasing—provided you have been using the treatment of your choice.

Hives see several pressures this month, probably more so than any time of the year: Varroa, weather, food sources, and yellowjackets to name a few. Let's hope we do not have the fires and/or smoke. So, I will cover them one at a time. These are all things you as a person managing one or hundreds of colonies can do. Do not think you can put them off until next month.

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

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

—Varroa Management Decision Tool: <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroatool/>

—Tools for Varroa Management: [HBHC-Guide_Varroa_Interactive_7thEdition_June2018.pdf](#)

❖ Weather is one of those things we have no control of, but we can be sure to help the bees by supplying some kind of

water source; you may have to experiment to find a source that your bees will use. Over the past 20 or so years, I have tried many of them—from a pond to bird baths to no end. As it turns out, they like my wife's flower pots and my lawn sprinklers, so we have added several saucers with lava rocks. For the last few weeks, we have needed to add water to these dishes several times a day; if they go dry, the bees will let us know.

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

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

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



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OSBA Fall Conference: October 28–30, 2022

The Tentative Agenda (page 9) provides the schedule of events for the upcoming fall conference, which includes both in-person and online options for attendance. Registration by mail is open (page 10), with online registration opening soon. Additional information and updates will be posted at orsba.org/fall-conference as they become available. Conference recordings will be available until December 21, 2022. Join us!

Honey Show

Plan now to enter the 2022 conference Honey Show. Specific guidelines will be posted as soon as they become available.

Auctions

We will have our traditional silent/benefit auction on site as well as an online auction this year. You are essential in making this happen; we thank you for all of your donations!

For **all auction items**, we need the name of the donor, best contact information, a description of the item(s) donated, the value of the item(s), minimum bid (if appropriate), and any special information (for example, that the winning bidder for online items will need to pay postage if the item needs to be mailed to them). In addition, for the **online auction**, we need a photo of the item that can be uploaded to the auction page.

For **on-site auction donations**, bring items with you to the conference. They will be displayed for bidding in the silent auction, and winning bidders will be able to pick items up on Sunday morning after organizers complete the auction review.

For **online auction donations**, send photos and information to Max Simon at max.simon@oregonstate.edu no later than

September 30, 2022. Organizers hope to make the auction live October 3, 2022.

Lodging

Discounts on lodging are being investigated. As of now, both the **Old Town Inn** and **River House Inn** in Florence have offered a reduced rate for conference attendees. The rates, discounted \$30 off the seasonal rate, are: \$109/night for Old Town Inn, \$119/night for River House Inn (off River), and \$159/night (on River).

Please note that the discounted rates do not include applicable taxes and fees, and any cancellations must be made before October 19, 2022, to avoid any credit card charges. To receive the rate, take care to book directly with the hotels (Old Town Inn, 541.997.7131; River House Inn, 541.997.3933) on or before **October 12, 2022**, with the code BEES22.

Luncheon and Banquet Offerings

Event presentations are noted on the Tentative Agenda, page 9. Items on the menu, subject to change, are:

- ❖ Saturday Luncheon with Ramesh Sagili, OSU Honey Bee Lab—Soup: Moroccan lentil and clam chowder; Sandwich: Roast beef, ham, chicken salad; assorted rolls and breads; salad bar (vegetarian options); assorted cookies
- ❖ Saturday Banquet with presentation by Pat Heitkam, Heitkams’ Honey Bees—Choice of halibut, rib eye, roasted vegetarian lasagna; roasted red potatoes, steamed seasonal vegetables, garden salad with dressings; rolls; cake
- ❖ Sunday Luncheon with Panel Discussion—Taco Bar: Beans,

rice, ground beef, with all the fixings’ with flour and corn tortillas, taco shells, and vegetarian options; cookies

Photos—Yes!

Event photos are always welcome. To share, please send them to osba.newsletter@gmail.com for posting on our Facebook page *during* the event and on our website after you are safely back home again!



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OSBA 2022 Fall Conference

Tentative Agenda

Friday October 28

- 10:00 AM—NOON Encaustic Art Workshop* (Auditorium Backstage)
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 Your Queen Problems Are Our Queen Problems
Russell Heitkam, Heitkams' Honey Bees
- 11:15 AM Overwintering Queen Banks in Oregon - 2022 Update
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: OSU Honey Bee Research and Extension
Program Overview: Proudly Serving Oregon Beekeepers
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 Service
- 4:45 PM General Membership Meeting (Auditorium)
- 5:00 PM Silent Auction Ends
- 6:00 PM Social Hour (Events Area)

- 7:00 PM Online Auction Ends
- 7:00 PM Banquet* (Events Area)
- Presentation: Title TBA
Pat Heitkam, Heitkams' Honey Bees

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 Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Oxalic Acid
Vaporization Method to Control a Honey Bee Pest *Varroa
destructor* — Mustafa Bozkus, Oregon State University
- 11:38 AM Pesticide Exposure and Hazard Quotients:
Understanding Where Pesticide Hazard Comes From in the
Landscape — Emily Carlson, Oregon State University
- 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 Oregon Master Beekeeper – Spotlight on Our
Certified Master Students—Presenters TBA
- 2:30 PM Break (Lobby | Exhibitor Area)
- 2:45 PM Making It All Fit Together: Pollination, Reducing
Pesticide Exposure, and Adding Bee Pasture
Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon State University
- 3:25 AM Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Oregon
Master Beekeeper Program
Jen Larsen, 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 Art Workshop.

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.

BEEKEEPER EVENTS

— 2022 —

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. See pages 8–10. *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: American Beekeeping Federation Annual Conference & Tradeshow. Jacksonville, Florida.

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representative

South Coast

The Coos County group is renewed, the more experienced association members in both Coos and Curry counties have been rallying to help the newest beekeepers. Yellowjackets are wonderfully missing, blackberry blossom nectar harvesting continued until end of July, garden and dispersed wildflower harvesting continues abundantly in August. And, though late storms damaged orchards and fruit production is significantly reduced this year, honey production is at an impressive high!

The bear are coming within about a hundred feet of the beehives on Pistol River hill. So far they are targeting garbage and anything lying around outside with interesting odor. Upriver loggers are removing trees that the bear stripped of bark from midway up to the very top, completely girdling and dooming them. Trail cams are showing more bear and more multiple cubs. They are thriving. Winter warming?

The Curry County Fair bee booth was beeless, though winner with Best Honey, C. Layton, is looking forward to competing at the Oregon State Fair. Honey bees were missed by many this year for the first time since the association received an observation hive from the Curry County Fair about a decade ago. This year, because of the effect of the Covid blackout on active



communication, the minimum membership didn't get met by the deadline for the state as-
Beeless bee booth.

sociation, so insurance coverage was not available for providing live bees at the fair. Also, opening of the educational apiary for activities was curtailed.



Russ and Babette Rose share tales of their adventures with the bees.

The newly formed association of Coos is missing former members who disbanded during the Covid blackout, so those who have done more research and have more access to information are assisting those with less. So like honeybeeing. Svetlana Mastakova reports for the group. *Mureen Walker*

After a long period of inactivity Coos County beekeepers reconvened in April 2022 thanks to the enthusiasm and organizational skills of its new president, Ann Marineau. Among the officers are also Jill Taylor (secretary) and Linda Phillips (treasurer). The official name is *Coos Beekeepers Association* (CBA), and our Facebook page can be found by searching for “Coos County Beekeepers.” The association meets every fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the OSU Extension building in Myrtle Point (Ohlsen Baxter Bldg, 631 Alder St). The meetings are a great opportunity to learn about beekeeping and to meet other members. During the May meeting, Rick Olson gave a presentation on spring hive management. In June Niels Storksen gave a talk on catching swarms and showcased his swarm trap. Our July potluck meeting took place at the president's house. where Ann demonstrated inspection of an active top bar hive (including marking of the queen!). The association maintains a small teaching apiary just outside the OSU Extension building, currently with two active Langstroth hives thanks to donations of boxes, frames, and bees by members. Beginners have the opportunity to participate in hive inspections guided by more experienced beekeepers. Among other benefits of a membership is access to a recently donated 2-frame manual extractor. The association also maintains a local swarm call list.

Svetlana Mastakova

Regional Associations

Central Oregon

The days are getting shorter, there's a chill in the mornings. If you're in a rural area, you may have some remaining rabbitbrush and sagebrush to start out the month. In urban areas, though the average first frost is around September 7, there should be still some blooms until mid-month.

Overall, this was a season full of “unexpecteds.” Anecdotally, the winter losses seemed pretty much par for the course. Then during the spring, the early warm periods had quite a few starvation dead-outs as there wasn't much, if any, real forage available and beekeepers were caught off guard by the following

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cold snap. Then there was quite an active swarm season probably due to the early warm weather startup. Those who mitigated swarms, by splitting or stealing brood, were able to remove an impressive number of brood frames during the May/early June period. Over many years of our beginner bee school, we've been telling our new beekeepers that if they start with a package or nuc, with our short summer, they should expect to build up the numbers and comb, but not to expect any honey surplus. Even these built up enough that they had quite a few swarms this year. We're now awaiting the results of the summer to see how the harvest turned out.

In July, we had a wonderful talk about Central Oregon butterflies from a local expert with lots of lovely pictures. We now know how to tell the difference between butterflies and moths as well. In August, Heike Williams of COAREC provided an awesome and very useful field seminar on Varroa treatments at one of our member's apiaries. Then in lieu of our normal meeting, we



had a great field day at the same farm with Carolyn Breece and Heike Williams presenting about diseases (with actual examples vs just PowerPoint). And we were able to see each other IN PERSON for a picnic. In the near future, we are attempting to organize a talk about structural extractions, including all the various issues and hazards. Stay tuned for more information.

We look forward to seeing you in Florence in October. As always, please consider yourself invited to our meetings and events.

Allen Engle

Douglas County Bees

We have our hands full with prepping for the Douglas County Fair. In September, we will be at the Winston Melon Festival. This is the last festival/event that we are attending for 2022. October begins our membership "Bee School" that will continue one time per month until March of 2023. Our "Bee School" is geared towards helping our members become better beekeepers and stewards of their colonies. It made a huge difference in our 2021/2022 survival/overwintering rates. We hope to improve even more for the 2022/2023 rates.

Beau Miakinkoff

Oregon Central Coast Beekeepers

Many of our members have been harvesting, extracting, and bottling honey from their colonies. With the very wet spring and rains into June, the blackberry crop was amazing, along with

all the wildflowers. I have taken a full super of capped honey from both my hives, leaving the girls with a full super each to get them through our dearth and winter months. Bees here on the coast are now found in the vegetable garden and pollinator plants in the neighborhood. There have been few bumble bees this year and very few yellowjackets.

At our last meeting we discussed removing honey frames from the hive and using different extraction methods. We also discussed hot weather fire precautions, such as being careful where you set a hot smoker and removing dry grass from around the hives. Be sure your bees have a water source now that the ground is dry, and take care of yourself by not getting overheated and staying hydrated. Heat exhaustion is no fun.

Information was sent out to the membership about the Oregon State Fair and the association has signed up for a full day on August 29. Two of our members, Max Kuhn and Rick Olson, will be bringing observation hives. These are always a draw for fairgoers. This month we will have our annual picnic on August 27 instead of a general meeting.

Pat Wackford

Portland Metro Beekeepers

Our members noted about a two-week delay to the summer beekeeping calendar, from the blackberry nectar flow to honey harvest time. Beekeepers are always thinking ahead, and August was a great time to re-queen. A fresh, new, well-mated queen going into the fall is more likely to make it through winter and set a colony up for a successful spring, and PMBA held several queen sales for members to take advantage of.

With an abundance of sun and the nectar flows behind us, September is all about ensuring success for the tougher seasons ahead. Beekeepers are feeding 2:1 sugar syrup to build up colony food stores. Late summer is also a critical time for checking mite loads and treating. This is the time of year when the longer-lived winter bees are being raised, meaning mite-borne viruses need to be in check right now to ensure a healthy population to make it through the winter.

We held our annual picnic on August 13, enjoying food, fabulous prizes, and the company of other members, their friends, and family, swapping stories from this and years past. The beekeeping community is truly a wonderful thing, with people of all ages and walks of life, keeping bees on hobby-to-commercial scale, all happy to ask questions, answer questions, and support each other.

Jamie Caldwell

Portland Urban Beekeepers

As the days arc shorter, we're finally catching up to our bees, who have been preparing for their fall for a while now. Many of us will set our bees up for success with fall mite treatments. In furtherance of this, PUB hosted OA researcher Randy Oliver for its August meeting. He continues to do amazing research which will no doubt pay off for all of us. As he explores different ways

to treat and extend treatment time, he does so with scientific precision and constant evaluation of bee health.

Our Bee Days at the apiary continue to be a draw for new, future,



Above: Installing swarm in our first top bar hive. **Left:** Work party to clean up grounds.

and veteran beekeepers. It's been a great way to socially connect, and learn from experts and each other. Weekends at the apiary feature an organized agenda of activities and often a featured guest speaker or professional apiarist. *Jessica Anderson*

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

After a few years of emails and phone calls, Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association, which serves Jackson and Josephine counties, finally got a foot into the Jackson County Fair! We are delighted we were allowed to provide educational information for the public regarding bees, beekeeping, and SOBA during the Jackson County Fair July 13–17. We are hoping to add Honey & Hive Products competition in the future. Even though the SOBA booth was not part of the competition, we received several “People’s Choice” votes. On August 3, Educational Outreach volunteer Leslie Lundgren spoke during the Grants Pass Rotary luncheon. Rotary members engaged in a lively and fun game of “Which Bee Is It?” that focused on the basic differences between queen, drone, and worker bees. Correct answers were rewarded with a honey stick.

Leslie Lundgren

Tillamook Beekeepers

I am not sufficiently experienced to understand why our honey began to flow roughly a month earlier this year. We had an exceedingly difficult spring with rain virtually every day in May and the first half of June. Now dozens of beekeepers are experiencing a huge honey flow early in August. Personally, I have never drawn honey earlier than September, but I had no choice but to pull 36 frames off three hives the first week of August. Each hive had 3 supers on top of 3 deeps, and they were honey bound. I extracted 120 pounds of honey. The blackberries and knotweed have just begun and no doubt the bees will fill those supers back up in no time. Related stories have been told

from a dozen or so beekeepers I have spoken with.

And on top of that, we are crazy busy with the fair. The Tillamook County Fair begins Wednesday the 10th and lasts for four days. This is clearly the biggest event for us every year. Our booth location moved last year into the main hall of the fairgrounds



and our space is approximately 10 x 50. 500 square feet. The



new location is adjacent to the floral tables and kitty corner to the Tillamook Ice Cream Booth, making it a perfect location for the maximum number of people to pass by us and learn about bees and

beekeeping. Of course, we have an observation hive that is always a draw to children and many adults as well. We have had to limit the number of TBA members selling honey at our booth to only 7. Easily 12 or more have honey that could be for sale. We are thinking of better ways to allow more honey from more members for next year. Life is good in Tillamook.

Brad York

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

The TVBA honey house has been spinning out members’ sweet golden treasure since opening for use in mid-July, and will wrap up in September. Members report both lots of honey and not so much honey as a result of how the forage blooms and bees’ work ability coincided with the super wet spring in our area.

The TVBA board had worked super hard this year to deliver great value to both newbie and experienced members with revamped Bee School in March, multiple mentored field days and lots of new and interesting monthly presenters on key seasonal topics. Kudos and thanks to all of our productive board member leaders! We are looking for new ideas and new board members for 2023—come talk to us about a fun gig if you might be able to contribute!

We continue to wrestle with Covid surges and stats with regard to in-person meetings and are working hard to deliver quality hybrid member meetings. We greatly enjoyed presentations from Jim Tew of One Tew Bee and Bob Binnie of Blue Ridge Honey in July and August. And our September last Tuesday meeting will feature OSU Honey Bee Lab’s Ramesh Sagili (always a favorite with great research updates!).

Debby Garman

Minutes—Continued from page 3

these funds sit in the OSU Foundation, which acts as a financial broker.

Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education		
4100 16029 (Current Use)	\$	7,130.48
6220 16029 (Endowment)	\$	108,475.00
OSU Apiculture Fund		
4100 16032 (Current Use)	\$	34,963.95
6220 16032 (Endowment)	\$	80,778.52
Herman A. Scullen Memorial Fellowship Fund		
4100 19805 (Current Use)	\$	4,899.64
6220 19805 (Endowment)	\$	78,956.96

Residential Beekeeping Report

Mike Rodia shared the contact information for the Department of Agriculture person who's responsible for sending out letters of approval for burning hives affected by AFB. Jessica Rendon with the insect pest prevention management program can be reached by phone at 503-871-6133 or by email at jessica.rendon@oda.oregon.gov. There is also a publication available from the Department of Agriculture that includes instructions on how to do this burning.

Agriculture Liaison/Past President Report

Harry Vanderpool reported that many good things are happening behind the scenes. For example, there was a blueberry field day July 20 that brought growers and beekeepers together to share a win/win message: when plants are managed in a way that doesn't harm bees, the bees pollinate more successfully, berries grow more abundantly, the hive is happy, the beekeeper is happy, the grower is happy. The growers were very enthusiastic about this collaborative messaging – it's good for all.

Harry also clarified that he's the ONLY person interfacing with our insurance carrier. Only affiliated regional associations of OSBA are covered. Association events which are published in association minutes, emails, or newsletters are covered. A certificate of insurance is only needed if the facility where the event is taking place requires it.

Website and Bee Line Update

Rosanna sent a detailed email report; reactions to this information:

- Memberships – Membership will not be given for writing articles for The Bee Line, as per the constitution and bylaws.
- There is a great need to encourage content contributions. In looking for ideas around this, the following suggestions were made:
 - Social media content
 - OSU students – Carolyn liked and will encourage this idea

- Conference speakers could submit something related to their topic
- Master Beekeeper program participants could get service points for submitting articles
- Equipment sellers – could submit something about their products – sort of an infomercial
- Ask writers to add a sentence or two about themselves and what they're doing – names often aren't familiar
- Facebook Page
 - Need more content
 - Get more from OSU?
 - Need another FB moderator, especially someone who would like to chase down content
 - We may need a designated position dedicated to social media management
 - If we link to someone else's content, we need a permission form
 - Contact some of the associations as some have very robust FB followings; reshare some of their content?
- As an aside to a request from someone who wanted to post their information on our website, John reminded us that we're trying to capture an audience and bring them to science. We can't guarantee the scientific authenticity of other people's content.

Activities Director Report

Bonnie King sent a report that included information about the State Fair.

- Contact Jeremy Mitchell if you can provide nucs for the observation hive.
- Anything 'yesteryear' about beekeeping to be added to the presentation is needed.
- Need volunteers to set up, break down, and work in the booth.
- Competition information is on the Oregon State Fair website.
- Eugene Emeralds invited us to be a part of their 'mascot night' on Aug. 14. If you want to wear the honey bear costume, let Bonnie know.

Old Business

Discussion of Wild Apricot was tabled and will be discussed at a later meeting.

New Business

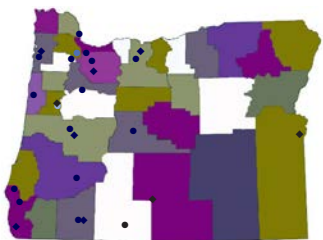
Most of new business topics were discussed in previous reports. Nothing new was added.

Adjournment

Harry Vanderpool moved to adjourn and Joe Maresh seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Derkacht, secretary

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; noahitus@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) Sideline (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.

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

New memberships now are applied through 2023.



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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, events, corrections, questions, photographs, and ads/advertising to: Rosanna Mattingly, *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland

OR 97206; e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com. It's your newsletter—we want to hear from you! The next issue to be printed will be the **October 2022** issue. The deadline for submitting copy is **September 10, 2022**. Please let me know if you have difficulties so we can work out the space and timing for the material.



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