



The Bee Line

Volume 47
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Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

PAm Achieves Impressive Milestone

George Hansen



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Reminder: As we conclude this bee season, the upcoming OSBA Fall Conference (pages 13–14 | orsba.org/osba-fall-conference/) is among our opportunities for regrouping and ongoing learning.

Project Apis m., the nonprofit organization funding practical honey bee research and graduate scholarships, has passed an impressive milestone. The organization is celebrating passing the ten-million-dollar mark of funding honey bee research. Chances are, if you attend meetings or read periodicals devoted to honey bees, you will have come across presentations and articles describing research funded by PAm. Complete information about all the research funded by PAm is kept up to date on the PAm website [www.projectapism.org/].

Where did all this money come from? To a degree, beekeepers and beekeeping organizations donate. But the largest sources of money for PAm research come from The National Honey Board and corporate sponsors, in particular Costco. Applications for funding are assessed by a scientific advisory panel, and the final choices are made by the PAm board of directors.

The Oregon State Beekeepers have a strong record of supporting research programs in Oregon and to some extent Washington. The OSBA is a contributor to PAm as well. PAm has awarded \$350,000 of funding for research carried out by researchers at Oregon State University. For example, Dr Ramesh Sagili has received funding for his nutrition studies and Amitraz resistance work. Dr Priya Chakrabarti Basu got PAm support for her honey bee nutrition work, and Dr Andony Melathopoulos has a number of projects funded by PAm. Most recently his work on forage alternatives targeting late-summer and fall time frames was a PAm-funded project. Ellen Topitzhofer's study of shipping queen cells ended up becoming a document available to the industry and was funded by PAm.

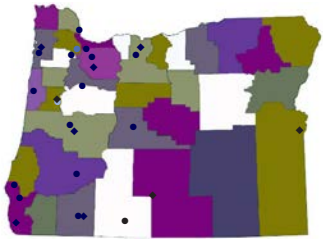
At Washington State University, funding for the development of cryopreservation of honey bee genetic material was funded by PAm. The new honey bee lab and opening ceremonies were partially funded by the nonprofit as well. Breeding work by Sue Cobey and Dr Steve Sheppard got PAm funding.

Dr Sagili has written his support for PAm: "We have been fortunate to receive significant research funds from Project Apis m. over the past several years. These research funds have allowed us to conduct important applied research that is practical and benefits our beekeeping industry relatively sooner, which may not be feasible from other sources of funding. Their grant application process is robust, but also simple and researcher friendly. Further, we also receive the entire amount of requested funds from PAm without any dollars siphoned towards payment of overheads, unlike funding from many federal agencies. Project Apis m. is playing a crucial role in promoting honey bee health in the US by supporting critical research."

PAm specializes in funding practical research, research you can use. The results are made available as soon as possible in a format that combines usable outcomes. Some of the results are published as resource guides that are available online. For example, if you look at the "Indoor Wintering Guide," you will see it is the combination of research results and practical advice as well as contact information for further investigations. There is discussion about how to use the storage building in other ways beyond overwintering. A resource like that is not produced anywhere else. And it is free.

Continued on page 12

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

Message from the President

Greetings, fellow beekeepers.

It is difficult to believe another season has passed. Each one seems to go faster than the last. Twenty-five years with the bees has definitely taught me to truly appreciate every moment and how few moments we actually have. With this in mind, I am looking forward to spending more great moments with you all at the Fall Conference in beautiful Florence, Oregon, October 28-30. If you have not yet registered, links to register both online and by mail can be found here: orsba.org/2022-fall-conference/. We have a great agenda, which is available in person and online. I can't think of a better way to bring our 101st year as an organization to a close by learning about bees, enjoying camaraderie with fellow beekeepers, and raising research funds for bees. We still have a little time left to take advantage of GloryBee's Save the Bee foundation's offer to match up to the first \$100,000 that we raise with our centennial fundraiser (Only \$94,000 more to go!). You can find the link to the Gofundme here: www.gofundme.com/f/100year-anniversary-help-us-save-the-bees-event.

October 1 marks the beginning of a new water year. 2022 has been yet another very dry, hot, fire-filled year. It is during moments like this where we often look to long-range forecasts in the hopes that the next season will be better. Long-range forecasts are tricky and the further out they go the less reliable they can be; however, our climate-modeling technologies continue to improve. At the

time of this writing, the three-month forecast looks to be warm and dry for most of the Southwest with a 50:50 chance for much of Oregon being warmer and dryer than usual. NOAA has some great climate and weather monitoring tools. Their long-range for October through December forecast maps can be found here: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/two_class.php. If this forecast proves to be reasonably accurate, it looks as though there is a strong likelihood that we are in for another warm dry winter, especially for those of us who depend on winter almond pollination in California. The word "normal" in a forecast gives me great pause. What does this even mean? From where I sit, it seems like much of our region may have a new normal, which at this point means continuing water shortages and more fires. The climate has changed, and this has profound implications for how we manage our bees, businesses, and daily life in general.

These prevailing conditions make our bee pasture and pollinator gardens all the more important. Dry conditions can drastically reduce forage abundance; therefore, anything we can do has the potential to have highly positive impacts for pollinators. If water is scarce, there are still many things that can be planted for dryland cover crops. The Pacific Northwest Honeybee Pasture Mix planted at the right time is an excellent seed mix with light to medium water usage: www.naturesseed.com/specialty-seed/honey-bee-blends/pacific-northwest-honey-bee-pasture-mix/. There are also numerous native plant options for xeriscaped pollinator gardens. The crew at OSU came up with this native plant list that has many excellent nectar and pollen plants in it: extension.oregonstate.edu/pub/em-9363. Lastly, there are some excellent resources available at the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund: www.beeandbutterflyfund.org/. This site is absolutely worth the visit and funded in part by Project Apis m.

Not only does October mark the beginning of a new water year, it also brings an end to my fourth and final term serving as president for the OSBA. What an eventful four years it has been, with no shortage of ecological and economic hurdles. It is a very challenging environment to run any business in, and especially a commercial beekeeping business. Reflecting on all of this, I am deeply grateful that we have this organization to help us navigate the beekeeping world in which we live. It has been an honor to serve the cause, and I would like to give a special thanks to all the board members, future and past, who help keep us on our mission. We could not do it without you! I would also like to thank all the volunteers and everyone who donates their time and money supporting crucial honey bee research. When we work together like the bees do, we can accomplish so much more than toiling in isolation. Thank you, team. May your winter clusters be robust, your mites be dead, and your bee forage ample. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the conference.

John Jacob

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Oregon Beekeepers Make an Impact at the 2022 State Fair

Bonnie King

We are back! COVID may have slowed us down, but Oregonians are back on their feet and going strong. For 11 days straight, the 2022 Oregon State Fair was the busiest place in the Capital City, even setting attendance records (40,000 on Saturday 9/3) and overwhelming all the parking lots.

Our OSBA volunteers were keenly aware of the number of visitors, giving away several thousand HoneyStix and hundreds of informational flyers at our booth. The OSBA “bee booth” is a popular tradition for innumerable families, bringing their kids to see the bees, just as their parents or grandparents did years ago.

Many interested visitors pledged to attend a bee meeting; the “beginning beekeeping checklist” was the top handout we distributed.

Situated at the north end of the Farm and Garden building, our booth was large and easy to see. The 20-foot “Oregon Beekeepers” banner hung outside over the front doors, enticing visitors to check out the bees for themselves.

Donations Liven Up the Bee Booth

Many thanks to Shonnard’s Nursery for the live plants we displayed and to Nature’s Kick HoneyStix for their generous donation of everyone’s favorite snack—honey! Portland Urban Beekeepers gifted us a new photo stand up with 2 places for kids to put their faces, and it was instantly popular.



Several people loaned special items to the booth, including a honey press from Wolf Krebs and antique beekeeping books from Marjie Ehry. Steve Gomes brought a bumble bee nest and an actual Asian Hornet, which attracted a lot of attention from everyone who laid their eyes on it. We brought back the “kids’ coloring table” and it was a big hit. Kids of all ages



find it enjoyable to take a seat and spend some time with our educational coloring sheets. Examples of this artwork will be displayed at the conference in October.

Volunteers: the Backbone of our Exhibit

Beginning 3 days before the fair opens, the work begins. We move the items needed from the OSBA storage unit on a flatbed truck to the fairgrounds and unload. Many thanks to David Martinez, his friend Steve, and my son Christian for being the setup crew. Jeremy Mitchell, observation hive coordinator, kept the bees in rotation throughout the fair, so they were never there longer than 2 days. Our bees are happy bees!

Filling shifts was a little touch and go at times, but we made it through without difficulty. Next year, the shifts will be 3–4 hours long, and no longer. We will encourage bee associations to each host a day (or half day). A few associations hosted this year; it brings a lot of camaraderie to the associations and even more good energy to our booth.

Nick VanCalcar and Jessica Hajek served as honey stewards, helping check in entries for the “Honey and Products of the Hive” competition. Judging took place the day before the fair opened and the entries remained on display throughout the fair.

Breakdown of the booth took place the day after the fair ended. Many thanks to Joe Maresh, David Martinez, Sean King, and Christian King. Without these helpful and willing volunteers, it would be impossible to accomplish.

2023 State Fair on the Calendar



Plans for next year include a larger area for our exhibit. We want to expand to include a significant area for kids, a hands-on demonstration area, and a speaker’s corner. I am forming a committee for the 2023 Oregon State Fair booth. Put your creative juices to work and let’s brainstorm! Please contact me via email (bonjking@gmail.com) or find me at the conference.



The Oregon State Fair returns August 25-September 4, 2023. See you there!



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Keeping Bees in October

Harry Vanderpool

What a difference one year makes! You may recall unirrigated, pollinated crop seeds, unable to germinate last year due to drought and excessive heat. This year, the rain did not stop until mid June! One thing that remained unchanged is our constant care as beekeepers for our bees and doing our best in the face of never-ending challenges. Here are a few thoughts looking ahead:

❖ One of the most disappointing things in early spring are hives full of dead bees due to starvation. These hives are often the largest, most impressive populations in fall and winter that simply ran out of honey stores. And, of course, they died right before you needed them most. October usually gives us a chance to assure adequate honey stores before the big cool down.

❖ We take time in early October and tilt (not lift) every single top box and assess weight. This also gives us a last peek and an opportunity to remove any residual treatment materials. We place a square of painter's tape on hives with a number from 0 to 5. Zero means, honey bound, do not feed; 5 means that the hive will need multiple shots of syrup, etc. This does take time, but saves money and places focus on target.

❖ Another disappointment we try to avoid is small clusters. Every year in early spring there is talk of combining hives in order to improve frame count. We prefer to make combines in the fall. Combines in spring often struggle and continue to shrink in our experience. Fall combines often give an appearance of getting back on track. These may need feeding as their time to profile the brood nest is short.

❖ While Varroa-control strategies should be mostly complete at this time, we all know that there is variation in everything. Regardless of mite sampling, there will always be outliers with elevated mite populations. Addressing this, we have adopted the practice of conducting an oxalic vapor treatment on all hives before leaving each location for each visit in fall.

❖ Mice are looking for a nice warm home as temps cool down. We make extra effort to assure that mouse guards are in place early. Comb area chewed away this year will result in drone comb area next year.

Varroa would just love to see that! Don't let it happen.

❖ Lumber prices, after skyrocketing, have moderated some this year. Even then, taking extra steps to protect your hives and equipment as well as the bees is smart money. We like to have our hives covered with felt (not tar paper) prior to November in order to reduce moisture on and in hives. Freezing and thawing in unprotected hives can rapidly accelerate the decomposition of pine components, especially.

❖ Speaking of equipment, when is the last time you packed or changed the wheel bearings on your trailers? How about your truck's transfer case fluid? Differential oil? Forklift maintenance?

❖ Who is going to haul your bees to almonds in the coming season? ARE YOU SURE? Trucking was really tight this year and is only getting worse according to industry sources. It is highly advised to start our dialog early with trucking companies this year. What is your plan "B" if no trucks are available?

Whew! How can anyone keep up with everything? We must face the fact that things have changed in the past few years. In every aspect of our operations, thinking ahead, buying ahead, and scheduling ahead may save our bacon. I hope you've had a good season and enjoy your badly needed off season!

Calling All Commercial Beekeepers!

The 2022 Commercial Beekeeper Workshop will be held Friday, October 28, 2022 in Florence, Oregon.

"Let's Hear it from our Growers!"

Growers from several pollination crops will discuss their perspectives with you. This is a great chance to exchange ideas and learn more about how your role and their role work together to produce Oregon's best crops.

For more information and to register, please contact Carolyn Breece: carolyn.breece@oregonstate.edu.



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BEEKEEPER EVENTS

— 2022 —

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 13–14. *Information:* orsba.org/osba-fall-conference/.

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 Representatives

North Willamette Valley

The months of July, August, and September were hot in the North Willamette Valley. The cool, wet spring delayed the honey crop by almost a month, and both hobby and commercial beekeepers were still pulling honey off in September. A recent survey of 18 beekeepers from OSU’s Friday in the Apiary and

2022 Retail Honey Prices for Willamette Valley

Jar Sizes and Prices						
12oz	16oz	24oz	32oz	48oz	192oz	
\$6.00	\$8.00	\$7.00	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$50.00	Low
\$8.00	\$11.00	\$12.14	\$15.75	\$23.50	\$61.00	Average
\$12.00	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$30.00	\$72.00	High

Honey Yield compared to last year				
	Less	Same	Greater	No Answer
	7	1	7	3

Data by: Elaine Timm

the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association was conducted by Elaine Timm. Elaine’s survey results showed that the average price for a pound of honey is \$11.00. This is up about \$1.00 from last year.

I found it interesting that an equal number of beekeepers, approximately 50 percent of them, reported a lesser honey crop as did a greater honey crop over last year. Why do you think roughly half of beekeepers surveyed experienced a lesser honey crop, while the other half experienced a greater honey crop? I suspect some beekeepers may not have added honey supers at all in mid-summer after a poor honey yield early in the season, didn’t add additional supers, or may have pulled them off too early.

Beekeepers should be done extracting honey now and any late-summer mite treatments should be complete. As the weather gets cold, our winter bees will begin to cluster and become less active. Fall and winter storms in the Willamette Valley are strong enough to blow lids off beehives and even knock them over. October is a good month to ensure your winterizing tasks such as insulating hives and placing bricks on the lids are done. Be sure to watch for any buildup of moisture inside the hives,

especially under the lids. Consider increasing ventilation to reduce moisture problems this winter.

The next meeting of the Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association is October 24 at 7 PM. *Jeremy Mitchell*

South Coast

Bee Vac! That seemed to be something our beekeepers’ groups are in need of, if we are to help rescue bees from inside structures and hollow trees. A woman called me from Coos Bay when she encountered bees in her wall during renovation. We tried to locate a bee vacuum or someone to put one together and concluded later that we should try to get one made this winter. Meanwhile, Svetlana Mastakova, of the new Coos group, determined that it was leafcutter bees. The homeowner is eager to do more to help pollinators and hopes to have honey bees in her yard next year. Svetlana has a new Valkyrie long hive, now all stained, oiled, waxed and awaiting a split in the spring. We can look forward to some reports through the year as to the benefits and challenges of using that particular horizontal hive.



Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association has returned to the original meeting date, on the third Thursday of the month at the OSU Extension building on the Curry County Fairgrounds.

First-year honey bee colonies are reportedly doing well on a very abundant blossoming of the blackberries—for most a good supply for overwintering, for some a generous oversupply.

A woman on our south coast used to do removal service while her husband, a contractor, did the cutout and repair. She has nearly a dozen hives, right on the coastal bluff, Styrofoam Langs, the only thing for the severity of the weather there, she says.

The bears have been coming within about a thousand feet of beehives, with interest in just trash cans and orchards, so far. My theory is that bears don’t even know about honey bee nests yet, since there aren’t any in the trees here anymore. Some counter with, “Just wait until after the apples are gone!” We’ll see. Meanwhile, for the bear, there’s also still the blackberries here until the big rain. The bees, however, are scouring the ground in search of remains of clover and dandelions—except for the lucky ones who live among the abundance along waterways.

No yellowjackets! Not a one! What a relief! Hunker down for a long cold winter, some say. Cluster for warmth! Sweet company and nutrients! *Mureen Walker*

Regional Associations

Central Oregon

Fall is definitely in the air. Many of us have been covering our delicate flowers and veggies for several weeks now and are

secretly hoping for a hard frost so we can stop and move on to autumn. There seemed to be a good crop of the native plants as well in our rural areas at the end of the season to allow our hives to backfill. Those that missed the last flows are madly feeding syrup now before the middle of October when we usually need to stop as it gets too cold at night.

Apparently we've had a "sufficient" summer. A recent poll of members showed a pretty even distribution between better than last year, same as last year, and worse than last year for collected stores. Our next poll will let us know what we're doing for winter prep. In August we had a wonderful field day at a local farm with several OSU researchers providing some really useful



hands- (and noses-) on learning about honey bee diseases, mites, and winter

prep. In September a couple of members talked about more complicated colony extractions, including from structures and trees, and including the various other complicating factors (liability, construction, owners). We would like to increase interest and skills of our members in these sorts of colony extractions.

We've been having good luck with hybrid meetings. At first it was primarily for COVID; more recently, it makes it easier for our more remote members to attend. As always, please feel free to attend any of our meetings.

Allen Engle

Douglas County Bees

Douglas County Bees' cut-out season was another busy one. By the time we had to shut down the service due to high temps, we still had a few more to do and calls were still coming in. At the moment we have 10 held over, waiting for springtime. Bee School for our members starts in October. We have 5 presentations (one per month) lined up and hope to make the 6th one a field trip to the Master Gardener's garden for a tour of a "bee-friendly garden."

Beau Miakinkoff

Oregon Central Coast Beekeepers

We did not have a regular meeting in August, but held our annual association picnic. We had a good turnout. We BBQed hamburgers and hot dogs, and everyone brought a dish to share. It was excellent weather as the sky was overcast. Three new members attended. We sat in a circle and members gave updates on their hives. The new beekeepers had many questions and long-time members were able to share their knowledge.

Pat Wackford

Portland Metro Beekeepers

The beekeeping season is winding down in the Willamette Valley. We held our annual summer celebratory picnic for association members to relax, enjoying food, music, prizes, and each others' company. And we are eagerly looking forward to the annual OSBA Fall Conference at the end of October!



Last month's PMBA meeting featured the topic of fall and winter



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preparation, a critical step in our region. As the weather cools and drones are getting the boot, many beekeepers are feeding their colonies 2:1 sugar syrup to boost food stores and increase their bees' chances of making it through the winter successfully. Hive entrances are being reduced to mitigate robbing. Like the nectar flow, the yellowjacket season seemed to come a little bit later than usual, but they are here now, and how!

Notably, several members have reported sightings of small hive beetles in their colonies this year. While conventional theory is that these nasty pests don't survive over Oregon winters, beekeepers are encouraged to keep an eye out and practice good hive hygiene, including cleaning screened bottom boards and disposing of scraped burr comb properly. *Jamie Caldwell*

Portland Urban Beekeepers

If you're behind in your beehive winter preparation (no judgment), you could do worse than head over to PUB's website to check out the recording from our September meeting. We hosted a panel of three speakers, Dewey Caron, Joe Maresh, and Andy Rapp, to talk about their overwintering techniques. Each has their own system, carefully honed over years of beekeeping, and, most importantly, all successful. We all know a beekeeper or two who insists they have the only perfect way to overwinter bees (and they make sure you know it!). The panel reinforced the idea that there are so many ways to keep bees healthy, fed, and thriving until spring.

We are proud to announce that our member Brian Fackler, completed the Master Beekeeping program with Cornell University. He has been working at this for a few years and we're impressed with the research he's completed and thrilled with his achievement!

Now that PUB has hosted a couple of successful in-person Meet and Greets at a local pub, we're planning on hosting our November meeting in person as well as a December in-person honey tasting. We know Zoom meetings will continue to be popular, but we hope folks will be willing to come out for an occasional meeting in person. We hope to see you all at the OSBA meeting! *Jessica Anderson*

Southern Oregon Beekeepers

August was a busy month for SOBA members and their bees! With many members harvesting honey, it was a time for celebrating our hard work together with our bees. Evidence of this was seen at the Josephine County Fair with a record number of entries in the extracted honey division with 9 adults and 2 youth honey en-



tries. In total, 15 participated in Honey & Hive Products. Sharon Schmidt of Cascade Girl

Organization was the judge. We also had a high number of volunteers help educate the public about honey bees, beekeeping, and bee-friendly practices. Every day of the fair had free admission, which meant we had a higher volume of visitors. We went through a case of honey sticks in five days! It was a fun and sweet way to interact with fair attendees. Summer Bee School took place August 27 with 9 experienced beekeepers educating 36 students about their



successful overwintering practices. It was a great day of education and camaraderie ending with a potluck. *Leslie Lundgren*

Tillamook Beekeepers

Last month I mentioned honey sales at our county fair. That was before the fair started on the 10th of August. We ended up selling \$3,600 in total sales to the Tillamook community during the 4-day event. We sold 21 quarts, 64 pints, 41 half pints, and 110 1-lb jars. And then the honey started to flow with most of our hives thriving this summer. One of our beekeepers pulled 40 gallons from 6 hives this past week, and, although his experience was on the high-volume side, it's not atypical of what many of our members are experiencing this year.

And we avoided an absolutely catastrophic mishap . . . As always, we had an observation hive on display during the fair. Our booth, for a point of reference, was situated indoors, in the middle of



the main event center of the Fairgrounds where thousands of fairgoers passed by daily. The observation hive was sitting on top of a folding table. On a fairly busy Friday afternoon, a visitor came by to see the bees with the desire to identify the queen and earn a sticker stating, "I found the queen!"

In order to get up close, she drove her electrically powered wheelchair a little too aggressively and knocked the table back 4 feet against the back cabinets in our booth. That collision caused several display items to hit the floor, and the hive to slide off the table as well. Were it not for the quick reflexes of another visitor, who grabbed the hive just before it fell to the floor, 5,000 agitated bees may well have escaped into the main indoor event center. Yikes. I have nightmares just imagining how popular the Tillamook Beekeepers Association would have become in Tillamook County.

This month at our meeting we will be building ventilation boxes. Patrick Sullivan, one of our beekeepers, designed a ventilation

box that he has been using year-round for five years. He has had NO mold in his ten or so colonies since he started using them. A few of us have been using them for a couple of years with the same results.

The box is a modified medium super with pieces of curved



PVC pipe facing downward to keep the rain out. It also has hardware cloth in the PVC to keep bees from

using the pipes as an entrance. The bottom of the box is covered with hardware cloth. On top of the hardware cloth is a layer of stiff foam insulation.

The ventilation box is used throughout the winter with a white board under the bottom brood box and no inner cover is used. This allows you to lift the foam and see directly into your top box. You will be able to see how much food is in the upper box and supplement as necessary to save the bees from starvation. Food can be placed in the ventilation box directly on the hardware cloth.

Brad York

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers

Our September last Tuesday meeting will feature OSU Honey

Bee Lab's Ramesh Sagili. In October, our presenter will be Michael Smith on bee cell architecture, and in November Robyn Underwood of Penn State will speak about the COMB project Study of Beekeeping Management practices . . . Commercial / IPM / no treatments.

Debby Garman

Project Apis m.—Continued from page 1

I am currently serving on the Board of Directors of PAM, but I have a personal experience I want to tell you about from the early days of Varroa in the US. At the time, I was in a leadership position at the American Beekeeping Federation involved in lobbying the Farm Bill and other government programs. This was long before I had any connection to Project Apis m. The bee industry was desperate for a registered control material for beekeepers to use. There were materials available in other countries, and one of the most effective was Amitraz. Amitraz was available at the time in the US to kill fleas on dogs and lice on livestock, but not for use on bees. The EPA was extremely reluctant to register the material for use on bees. They had a long list of concerns. Long story short, all the concerns from EPA had been worked out except the science package for registration showing safety, efficacy, and residue analysis. Dr Jeff Pettis was able and willing to do the work in a short time frame with a closing window of opportunity. Getting the funding needed to be quick. PAM did it. PAM has a level of flexibility that allowed them to get this job done quickly, where any other funding source would have taken much more time and involved many restrictions. And that is how Amitraz, the most commonly used Varroa mite control material, became registered for use in the US.

PAM reviews and finds funding for a dozen or more research projects every year. Currently PAM is involved in several research programs to find alternatives to Amitraz, including biologicals and most notably breeding mite-resistant bees. PAM tries to see the needs of the industry and respond with applicable research. Research beekeepers can use. Ten Million Dollars' worth! This is a great opportunity to celebrate this accomplishment and renew all our support for Project Apis m. All of us can contribute individually, as well as by encouraging our clubs and associations to donate. Be watching for more announcements and challenges around the next few months for Project Apis m.'s Ten Million Dollar Celebration!

Fall Conference Deadlines

The deadline for registration for the 2022 Fall Conference at reduced cost approaches quickly: **October 8, 2022**. Although online registration continues at orsba.org/osba-products/, and registration will be available on site in Florence, also note that the deadline for registration by mail (page 14) is **October 14, 2022**. In addition, there are no refunds after **October 14**. For an overview of the event, see the Tentative Agenda (next page). Make plans now to enter the Honey Show and donate or place a bid in an Auction! For more information, visit orsba.org/osba-fall-conference/. We look forward to seeing you "there"!

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OSBA 2022 Fall Conference

Tentative Agenda

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: The Bee Biz from a Historical Perspective
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, BC
- 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
Andony Melathopoulos, Moderator, with Max Kuhn, Jeremy Mitchell, Jason Rowan, and Linda Zahl
- 1:20 PM Honey Auction (Events Area)
- 1:45 PM Comparison of Varroa Mite Testing Methods: Alcohol Wash, Powdered Sugar Shake and Carbon Dioxide
Paul Stromberg, Oregon Master Beekeeper
- 2:07 PM A Tale of Two Projects: Beekeeping as Both Sensory and Therapeutic—Zip Krummel, Oregon Master Beekeeper
- 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!

Please Note: Preregistration discount ends **October 8!** To register online, see: orsba.org/osba-products/.

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-fall-conference/.



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 December 2023.



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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, events, and all the rest to: Rosanna Mattingly, *The Bee Line*, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517, Portland OR 97206; e-mail: osba.newsletter@gmail.com. The next issue is the **November–December 2022** issue. The deadline for submitting copy is **October 10, 2022**. Please let me know if you find difficulties with the deadline so we can work out the space and timing for materials. Thank you!