



# The Bee Line

Volume 47

Number 10

November–December 2022

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association



## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Oregon Bee Plate	1
Executive Committee	2
Thank you, Mentors!	3
Willamette Valley Bees	5
Bee Clubs (excerpts)	7
Club Officers (excerpts)	9
The OSBA Membership	10
Keeping Bees in Nov–Dec	11
Beekeeper Events	13
Regional News	13
Membership Form	15

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
 orsba.org  
 orsbawebmaster@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/  
 Oregon-State-Beekeepers-  
 Association-106259011502343

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

**Image above:** Mike Hewgill checks the health of a colony's honey bees with a stethoscope on one of the last long, bright, warm coastal days as preparations for winter ensue.

Now as the rains have finally found us, may all bees and their keepers be safe, dry, warm—and in good health!

## A Bee Plate for Oregon . . . Huh . . . Where Did This Come From?

Andony Melathopoulos

The key thing you need to know is we are going to have a bee license plate. To get the plate produced we have to presell 3,000 plates (i.e., we need 3,000 Oregonians to put money down for a voucher on a plate) to get the plate produced. The revenue goes to two Oregon State University Horticulture programs—the Pollinator Health and Honey Bee Labs. At the time of writing, we are close to selling vouchers.

But I should back up a little, because for 99% of you (I spilled the beans at Lane County Beekeepers Association last week) this is the first you have heard of this initiative.

I think it might have been Sharon Schmidt from Phoenix who posted something on Facebook a few years back pointing out that there was a whale license plate, why not a plate featuring bees. I recall at the time thinking that wasn't something that was really possible. The Legislative Pollinator Health Task Force that Dr. Sagili chaired entertained the idea as a source of funds for increasing pollinator health resources in the state, but at that time (2015) you had to get the Legislature involved to get a plate off the ground and that was deemed too big a task for any mere mortal to advance. The Task Force was likely correct; I was just in Georgia where the beekeepers got their plate through the legislature and . . . phew . . . it sounded a bit like one of the circles of hell described by Dante.

But legislation in Oregon changed, which laid out a process to apply for a plate through DMV without going through the Legislature. Dr. Sagili and I saw an opportunity to support two key parts of our programs through license plate revenues—technician salaries in the Honey Bee Lab and the native bee taxonomist position in my lab—and we developed an agreement. After that, Sarah Kincaid in my lab, with Jen Larsen's help, got to work on a plate.

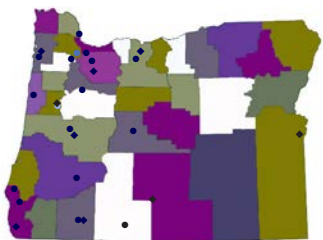
The design came after a process of soliciting proposals from artists who had previously composed the amazing North American Pollinator Protection Campaign posters. Their preliminary sketches were amazing, but we also had a young volunteer in our Master Melittologist program (Marek Stanton) submit a proposal, and it won. He had just sent me an entire graphic novel based on a nesting aggregation *Anthophora bomboides*

near his house, so we invited him to submit a proposal. And, wow. Everyone who saw the design loved it.

The plate features two of Oregon's most iconic bees, the honey bee and the wild yellow-faced bumble bee. It's designed to showcase the unique Oregon landscape of natural areas,



## OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



### OSBA OFFICERS

#### President

John Jacob—541.582.2337; oldsolbees@gmail.com

#### Vice President

Joe Maresh—503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com

#### Secretary

Barbara Derkacht—503.631.3063; bderkacht@yahoo.com

#### Treasurer

Becca Fain—541.997.3792; rfain18@gmail.com

#### Past President

Harry Vanderpool—503.399.3675; shallotman@yahoo.com

### ◆ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### North Coast

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

#### South Coast

Mureen Walker—541.373.7997; mureen98@gmail.com

#### Columbia Basin

Bill Edwards—541.354.2223; bfamily@live.com

#### Eastern Oregon

Jordan Dimock—541.372.2726; beelady60tamera@aol.com

#### Portland Metro

Tom Cinquini—503.547.5386; tomcinquini@gmail.com

#### South Central Oregon

Christy VanRooyen—541.885.0959; vanrooyen.christy@gmail.com

#### Southwestern Oregon

Eric McEwen—541.415.5171; beetruethehoneybees@gmail.com

#### North Willamette Valley

Jeremy Mitchell—503.580.1464; info@flyingbeeranch.net

#### South Willamette Valley

Tim Wydronek—541.740.4127; timwydronek@comcast.net

### ● AFFILIATED REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

#### Central Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, third Tuesday, The Environmental Center  
President: Allen Engle—aengle@bendbroadband.com  
Website: www.cobeekeeping.org

#### Columbia County Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, first Thursday, Deer Island  
President: Linda Zahl—503.799.7073  
Facebook Page: ColumbiaCountyOregonBeekeepers

#### Columbia Gorge Beekeepers

Meets 6:15 PM, third Wednesday, Hood River  
President: Jerry Frazier—jerry1.frazier@gmail.com  
Website: gorgebeekeepers.org

#### Douglas County Bees

Meets 6:00 PM, first Wednesday, Roseburg  
President: Robert Baune—541.863.9414  
Website: www.douglascountybees.org

#### Klamath Basin Beekeepers

Meets 9:00 AM, fourth Saturday, Klamath Falls  
President: Lorena Corzatt—541.892.8402  
Website: www.klamathbeekeepers.org

#### Lane County Beekeepers

Meets 7:30 PM, third Tuesday, Eugene  
President: Brian McGinley—56magoo@gmail.com  
Website: www.lcbaor.org

#### Linn Benton Beekeepers

Meets 6:30 PM, third Wednesday, Corvallis  
President: Everett Kaser—everett@lbba.us  
Website: www.lbba.us

#### Oregon Central Coast Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, fourth Wednesday, Newport  
President: Pat Wackford—pwacky@charter.net  
Website: www.ccbaor.org

#### Oregon Prison Beekeepers

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

#### Portland Metro Beekeepers

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

#### Portland Urban Beekeepers

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

#### Southern Oregon Beekeepers

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

agricultural fields, and backyard gardens that help support the state's over 600 species of bees. The plate design centers around a field of red clover—a majestic sight that can be seen dotting the rolling hills of Oregon's Willamette and Grande Ronde valleys (I know, it's the color of crimson clover, but that color looked better). You might not know this, but Oregon produces over a quarter of the US supply of red clover seed and both honey bees and bumble bees pollinate this crop.

You will be able to start buying vouchers at the following website shortly: <https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/home/oregon-pollinator-license-plate>. We also have postcards and tablecloths if you are doing any outreach this upcoming summer, to get as many people in your area to sign up. We will need everyone's help to get this plate launched, and you can contact us or the Honey Bee Lab to find out how you can get involved.

## Oregon Master Beekeeper Program

### 2022 Program Mentors, Thank You!

Alex Alexander	Terry Holm	Sharon Schmidt
Rena Alexander	Chuck Hudgins	David Schwartz
Anna Ashby	Katie James	Stan Scotton
Connie Axelrod	Dick Knapp	Miles Seeley
Beatriz Ayala	Zip Krummel	Amy Sierzega
Wayne Bailey	Max Kuhn	James Simpson
Troy Bany	Helen Kupeli	Ken Sonnen
Jeff Bergland	Don Larson	Melinda Jean Stafford
Karl Bokencamp	Jan Lohman	Mike Standing
Brenda Caetano	Kate Loudon	Matt Stouder
Dewey Caron	Joseph Maresh	Paul Stromberg
Jeff Clark	Sara Miller	Bill Terry
Ann Cochran	Mike Morrison	Terri Torres
Cliff Cottam	Joe Neelands	Maarten Van Otterloo
Clyde Dildine	John Nevius	Charlie Vanden Heuvel
Allen Engle	Steve Oda	David Neil Vanderburg
Brian Fackler	Erin Olmon	Mark Von Huene
Katy Fackler	Morris Ostrofsky	Pat Wackford
Gail Farler	Terry Rich	Mureen Walker
Debby Garman	John Rockrohr	Tim Wessels
Steve Gomes	Muffy Roy	Cheryl Wright
Troy Gooding	Jason Sanko	Linda Marlene Zahl
Alan Herzfeld	Julie Schmidlkofer	

# ELEVATE YOUR QUEEN GAME WITH OHB SASKATRAZ™

THE SASKATRAZ™ PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED WITH DIVERSE GENETICS  
TO ENRICH SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC TRAITS SUCH AS:




Honey Production • Tolerance to Varroa Mites • Overwintering  
Gentle Temperament • Economic Sustainability



**OLIVAREZ  
HONEY BEES**

*A healthy planet starts with healthy bees.*

**SUMMER QUEENS COMING SOON!**  
Italian • Saskatraz™ • Carniolan

  OHBEESHQ  OLIVAREZ HONEY BEES, SASKATRAZ™

CALIFORNIA/HAWAII  
530. 865. 0298

TOLL FREE  
877. 865. 0298

**OHBEES.COM**

## Beekkeeping in the Willamette Valley

*Joe Marty*

**Note:** Appreciation to Dirk Olsen for finding this article and noting its relevance for Oregon! Reprinted with kind permission from: *American Bee Journal*, September 1937, pages 440–441.

There are many differences from—and similarities to—what we experience today in these paragraphs in terms of prevalent forage, colony management, feral bees . . . With the many changes in the landscape throughout the Willamette Valley over the intervening decades, is it possible today to speak broadly of the region as a whole? Other regions? Many of us have noted changes as they have occurred, at least during more recent decades. What particular changes have you witnessed in the Willamette Valley as well as elsewhere in the state? What story do they tell? Let us hear from you!: [osba.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:osba.newsletter@gmail.com),

Marion County, Oregon, is a narrow strip of territory stretching from the Willamette River on the west to the summit of the Cascades on the east, varying in elevation from a couple of hundred feet to five thousand feet, the precipitation varying with the elevation. Near Salem, the county seat, it is about the same as at Chicago, but it increases several times as you near the eastern summit. Most of this comes in the form of rain, though snowfall in the mountains is heavy. May till October there is little rainfall.

Being close to the coast and subject to the warm Japanese current, there are not the extremes of heat and cold. Our summers are cool and our winters mild, the thermometer seldom registering above ninety or below zero. Yet it is not warm. Our cherry trees which often blossom in early March do not ripen until late June or early July.

So equitable is the climate that I have seen frost on the ground two weeks without melting, in the cloudy wintry months, and yet the ground not frozen. Soft wet snow will sometimes lie on the firs for a week or so before melting off.

The most disagreeable weather comes with the wintry storms from the southwest, the wind being forced up the Cascade slopes causing heavy precipitation in the valley and heavier on the slopes, oftentimes as snow.

As spring approaches, the heavy dank fogs of the valley disappear and it begins to warm up, while on the slopes winter lingers, March and April sometimes being the most disagreeable months of the year.

I have perhaps overstressed the weather but any wise person is aware that if he knows the climate fully he knows what will grow and will be able to adapt himself to his environment.

Marion county is one of the greatest fruit counties in the United States. Strawberries, cherries, pears, prunes, blackberries, and

loganberries grow to perfection. All the clovers do well except sweet clover and alfalfa. There are the vine maple, wild cherry, dandelion, wild pea, wild vetch, wild blackberry and numerous other wild flowers for early spring, and the fireweed from July till September.

One cannot always rely on any one plant for a sure honeyflow. The most dependable nectar plants in the valley are the clovers, the wild evergreen blackberry, and the loganberry. Any beekeeper with a location near a large orchard and these plants and who has a good fireweed location in the mountains to move his bees to later, can make the bee business a paying one here.

Spring management here does not mean simply the prevention of swarming and putting on supers as they are needed. It means feeding sometimes to prevent starvation when colonies have built up strong and two or three weeks of continuous cold rain set in. Most of my colonies were strong with ten frames of brood. I had watched them carefully. One must often use stimulative feeding for a honeyflow if the weather is cold and rainy previously, as it often is in the Willamette Valley. The colder and wetter the spring the greater the abundance of nectar so it behooves the beekeeper to take care of his bees.

Wintering is out-of-doors in single hive bodies, very satisfactory if the colonies are strong and located where it is dry and out of the wind. However, I pack all of mine. I had a bitter experience a few years ago when they were not packed. I lost two-thirds of my colonies and those that survived dwindled so badly that my crop was small. The sad thing was that there was a splendid honeyflow that year and honey at a good price.

Now my apiary is enclosed by a ten-foot board fence and my colonies all packed in lumber packing cases, with sawdust, and left until they are ready for supers or to be moved. Often weak colonies remain in the packing cases until almost the first of June.

Foulbrood is rampant. There are more beekeepers with it than without. Every orchardist wants bees for pollination but does not look after them. Before placing my bees in a location I make a house to house canvass to find if there are other bees so that I get a personal inspection of every colony. By taking someone else's word a few years ago I got a nice dose of foulbrood and had a pleasant time ridding my apiary of it.

We have a County Unit System of inspection where each county appoints its own inspector to be paid from a tax of \$1.00 per year per apiary. This tax is not collected. If it were the amount would be so small the inspector would not be able to buy gasoline.

The county is probably overpastured. There are many wild bees. Our county judge, whose avocation is hunting bee trees, has

found as many as ten in a half day, although he has never yet found a wild colony with disease.

Marketing honey is quite a problem. The successful beekeeper who readily sells his honey does his best to explain everything about it to his patrons. This is especially essential here as much of the honey from the smaller beekeepers is put on the market

in any way and they do not seem to be particular in segregating the valley honey, gathered in July and August, from the rest.

In these two months in the Willamette lowlands there is an abundance of honey gathered from the bachelor button and dog fennel, a small yellow flower growing in damp places. This makes disagreeable honey. The public think all honey

is alike and once having been sickened on this stuff they are off honey forever.

**Heitkams'**  
HONEY BEES INC



**Fresh Queens**


Italian or Carniolan  
Spring - Summer - Fall  
Quality Queens - Dependable Service

**We Are Selecting for Hygienic Behavior**

Call or Write (530) 865-9562  
4700 First Ave. Orland, CA 95963  
queens@heitkamshoneybees.com


**Old Sol Apiaries**

Our queens are double vetted and matured longer for higher confidence and greater acceptance rates.



541.582.2337  
oldsolbees.com

Selecting for productive, mite-tolerant queens since 2000



Honey and Crop Pollination

George, Susan,  
Matt & Joe Hansen  
30576 Oswalt Rd  
Colton, Oregon 97017

(503) 824-2265  
www.foothillshoney.com




**Bee Nutrition**  
**Hive Components**  
**Protective Gear**  
**Knowledgeable Staff**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
541-929-3524  
www.shonnards.com  
6600 SW Philomath Blvd  
Corvallis, OR 97333

**Learn with Us on YouTube!**



LCB #5718

**Beeline Apiaries & Woodenware**

See us for all your beekeeping supplies!

Woodenware	Bee Health Products
Foundation	Suits and Jackets
Tools	Books
	Oxalic Acid Vaporizers

Bee Packages and Nucs available in Spring

PH: 360-280-5274  
Email: beelineofwa@norcell.us

**Store Hours:**  
Open Monday – Friday 8 AM to 5 PM  
Saturday -- By Appointment  
Sunday – Closed  
August – January Call

Store Address: 19019 Moon Rd SW Rochester, WA 98579

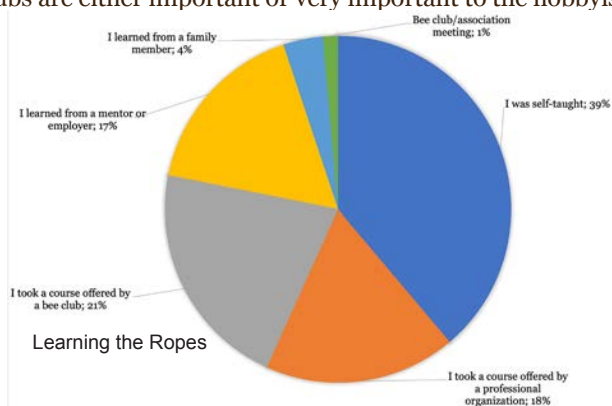
## Local Associations, Officers, and the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

**Note:** Thanks to Rebecca Fain and Dewey Caron for sending comments about these two articles by Shelley Stuart. Because of the timeliness of the material and OSBA's recognition of the invaluable contributions of regional associations, I contacted Shelley for permission to reprint excerpts—which she and *American Bee Journal* kindly provided. That said, the articles, which are based on her informal survey of 250 participants, are best read in their entirety! The excerpts are printed in the order in which they appear in the respective articles.

### Excerpts from: Stuart, Shelley. 2022. Bee Clubs – What Are They Good for? *American Bee Journal* 162 (9), 1029–1032.

My club has officers, dues, monthly meetings, a teaching apiary. Yours may have a 501(c)(3) designation with a board of directors. Or perhaps your club is more like lunch with a group of local beekeepers on a semi-regular basis to talk about the latest bee research, giving your household members a much-needed break from your obsession. Regardless of your group's structure, if there's learning, social interaction, and common symbology, you've got a club.

“Distribution of knowledge about beekeeping” leaps off the page as perhaps the *raison d'être* of our bee clubs. After all, both online and in print, the advice given to new beekeepers—who have as many questions as they have bees—is: Don't watch YouTube channels, there's too much bad advice out there! Get thee to your local club! That implies a certain level of value of bee clubs for that cohort. It also tracks with data from the survey I conducted. Whether you crunch the numbers by the respondents' beekeeping level or their years of experience, over 80% of them felt that bee clubs are either important or very important to the hobbyist.



On the surface when it comes to teaching beekeepers the ropes, the bee club falls very flat. Only 22% of the beekeepers who responded learned through a bee club and nearly 40% started their hobby in good, old-fashioned, do-it-myself style.

From the novice's viewpoint, bees have a small footprint, find their own food, have nearly invisible excrement, can be left for two weeks or more without a pet sitter—and beekeepers are saving the planet (or at least our food supply). And frankly

speaking, bees fall pretty low on the empathy chart for humans in general. If something goes wrong, well they're just bugs . . .

But while beekeepers may not have gotten started through a club, bee clubs really step in during the first two years of beekeeping to fill a crucial knowledge chasm. Club-related activities gave beekeepers at least the basics, and for many a solid beekeeping foundation, during their first two years of beekeeping. Here is where the novice beekeeper who jumped in with both feet weighed down by a 10-frame hive kit gets a much-needed life ring from the collective wisdom of fellow beekeepers.

Of course, the knowledge a club provides extends beyond beekeeping basics . . . But beekeepers can share this information without stepping foot outside the bee yard. The previous three years have taught us that the virtual club allows access to speakers they may never have been able to offer in person, whether the barrier be geography, cost, or the club's own size. So again, why bother with a physical club?

Emma Walters, former Senior Honey Bee Extension Associate at the Cornell Dyce Lab for Honey Bee Studies . . . agrees that Zoom has opened up a world of speaker opportunities for bee clubs, but also emphasizes the importance of club teaching apiaries for the new beekeeper. “There's a ton of value to have people go into hives, see how an inspection is done, see what everything looks like and learn how to recognize various things.”

Additionally, in-person talks afford a level of interaction that online does not. For the newer beekeeper, the after-lecture cookies and coffee socializing time may become part of the most formative moments of their beekeeping journey.

All of this learning and sociability is well and good for the beginner hobbyist, but somebody's got to bring that knowledge into the club for them to learn from. It isn't until about 10 years of beekeeping do beekeepers start to feel like they're sharing more knowledge than they gain at their clubs. Like access to a club apiary, having—and keeping—experienced beekeepers is important for this knowledge exchange.

It's also difficult to accomplish. It forces club officers to balance the needs of the (many) new beekeepers just starting out with those of the (diminishing) experienced beekeepers who want new, or deeper, knowledge. Speaking from experience, it's a challenge to keep everyone engaged. Summers at the teaching apiary—where officers sure can use an extra hand to lead a tour through a hive—are also prime time to get into your home apiary and accomplish what needs to be done for your own bees before the work week starts. On the other hand, fall or winter lectures about breeding varroa-resistant bees seem like an ethereal “someday” goal to beekeepers facing their first winter challenges.



# We Buy Honey!



**GloryBee is always looking for Oregon honey**

Contact Alex Lee, Commodity Manager:  
(541) 607-2196 or Alex.Lee@glorybee.com

1% of retail honey sales donated to critical research on honey bee health. savethebee.org



# WESTERN BEE SUPPLIES



## ROPE IN THE SAVINGS WITH FREE SHIPPING!

**CALL 1-833-533-1014**

**www.westernbee.com**

P.O. Box 190, Polson, Montana 59860

**See our ONLINE store!**

See our online store for your container and treatment needs for the fall season!

Ask about our **FREE SHIPPING!**

**#WW03SEP**

**5 - Hive Bodies**

**50 - frames**

**50 - Plasticell**

**CM grade with nails**

**Free Shipping!**

**\$272.20**

**#WW02SEP**

**5 - 6 5/8 Supers**

**50 - frames**

**50 - Plasticell**

**CM grade with nails**

**Free Shipping!**

**\$260.00**



Focus too much on one demographic and the other stops coming to meetings, and the club dwindles like a queenless spring hive.

For the most part beekeepers, like our bees, thrive in a community of shared resources. When lockdowns prohibited the customary vector for those shared resources (namely in-person meetings), our largely Boomer demographic had to adapt.

Rather than make clubs irrelevant, these online venues have added a tool to our clubs' toolkit. We can use it to good advantage, without forgetting the very tangible impact the club offers to those who do attend in person.

Without association-level support or structural framework to guide them, club beginner classes can be a four-day spectacle or an inadequate 4-hour crash course. Clubs can provide varying degrees of sound advice and information, depending on what their members bring to the meetings.

**Excerpts from: Stuart, Shelley. 2022. So You (Don't) Wanna Be Your Club's President? *American Bee Journal* 162 (8), 919–923.**

Of all the tasks that a bee club president needs to accomplish, one stands out as the most important for their club's growth, success and long-term value to its members. The newly minted president should start work on it immediately and give attention to it during every single club interaction.

That one task: Find their own replacement.

I loved many things about the club, from the veteran members who generously shared their experience and advice, to the bee logo incorporating its eponymous geography. I learned . . .

In January 2016, when I said "OK" to another (uncontested) term, I also firmly stated that it was my last year, and someone else would need to be president. And I repeated that announcement in February. And March. And April.

It turned out to be the most difficult project of my tenure. I even sent a message to the club email list with the subject line of "Job Description — don't pass on this awesome opportunity!"

I handed over the presidency to a couple who co-led the club after me and I succeeded in my goal, leaving the club with that warm club feeling still alive and well. But honestly, I shouldn't have needed twelve months of reminders and a gimmicky call to action.

[Of bee club members who have held an office, I found that] the majority . . . were hobbyists with 6-10 years of beekeeping experience.

I defined eight different motivators for individuals to become officers . . . boiled it down to:

- ❖ I founded the club
- ❖ I stepped up
- ❖ To learn or teach
- ❖ To improve the club
- ❖ I wanted to give back or contribute

- ❖ I was asked
- ❖ For personal enjoyment
- ❖ I was qualified

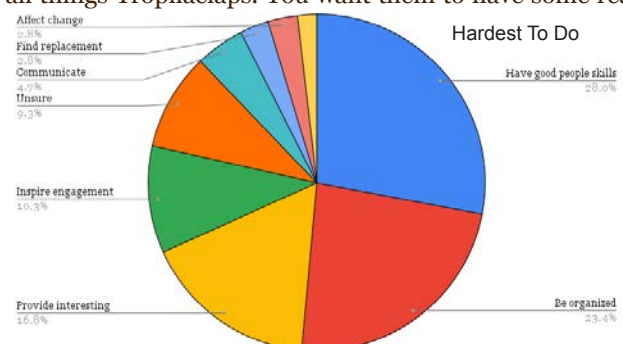
"I stepped up" rose to the head of the class, with "I was asked" a respectably close second.

As a hobbyist (78%) I felt too inexperienced (78%), but someone encouraged me to run for office (20%). I wanted to contribute to my beekeeping community (44%) and it was hard to step down (40%) because members just weren't volunteering (62%).

What I didn't know at the time was that in all likelihood a potential pool of willing successors (8%) existed in the club. That may seem like a very small percentage of club members, but you only need one club president. In order to encourage that one individual, I needed to find them, and then I had to ask—that second-largest reason that officers went into their positions.

I return you now to . . . [t]he newly-minted officer's most important job of their tenure: Find their own replacement from Day 1. They shouldn't rely on the "please volunteer so the club doesn't fall apart" approach like I did—the subtext of that is "I need someone to volunteer" colored with increasing desperation up to Election Day. Unless their club falls into that "vibrant" category, this is statistically likely to fail. The new officer needs to find and nurture that 8% and eventually say, "You've got good ideas and organizational skills—why don't you run for president?" . . . [T]ap into the enthusiasm of the beekeepers who have three to five years of beekeeping experience. These individuals are actively thinking about getting more involved in their clubs—in other words, that's the candidate pool, so don't disregard it.

How can such a new beekeeper be a club officer?! They don't really know anything about bees! At least, that's what I thought to myself in 2012. I was wrong. New beekeepers don't know *everything* about bees. As far as the general (non-officer) club members are concerned, that's third on the list of "What's the hardest thing for bee club officers to do?" Your club treasurer doesn't need to have the development times for bee castes memorized. Your vice-president doesn't need to be current in the latest queen-rearing research. Your president doesn't need to be fluent in all things *Tropilaelaps*. You want them to have some reason-



able knowledge about bees, sure. But do they have organizational skills and people skills? Can they balance the books? Find meeting space? Have well-run meetings with topics that appeal to a

wide range of beekeepers? Heck with their beekeeping tenure—or lack thereof—elect them!

The vast majority of the potential candidates want to contribute or give back, or to improve the club. Incumbents worried about the beekeeping side of things have the option to step out of an office and into a mentor/support role for the new officer, bridging the gap between knowledge and enthusiasm.

It's a scary thing to look at the current officers—likely with more beekeeping experience than you—and have the nerve to say “I can do that!” But the data suggest that if someone asked you to run, you would do so. They also suggest that incumbents anticipate that you will volunteer to run so they won't ask. Don't let this dichotomy stymie you from contributing to your local club.

To the current officers looking for their own graceful exit, statistically you have a highly engaged individual in your club whom you can nurture. They're probably a hobbyist, probably have 3–5 years of beekeeping experience, and most likely are hovering in the shadows. Find them, groom them, encourage them. It may not be Day One of your presidency, but it's not too late to start finding your own replacement.

---

### The OSBA Membership

That regional associations have capacities beyond what OSBA is able to offer is a beautiful thing! With expanding opportunities for learning and engaging, association members have much to bring to the table—including running for office. I know of at least one president who has clearly indicated a need to move on.

The OSBA itself was established for all beekeepers—those who belong to OSBA, members of regional associations, beekeepers who belong to no association whatsoever. The OSBA membership numbers do not appear to have varied much for decades. Even so, turnover has been nothing short of *exuberant*, which has made for confusion about the role of OSBA generally as well as OSBA's relationship with regional associations.

One of the ways the OSBA supports regional associations in their work is through affiliation. The associations are their own entities with their own constitutions/bylaws. They are not “registered” by OSBA, nor are they “satellites” of an OSBA “mother-ship” as has been contended. Associations *choose* to be affiliated. Benefits of doing so include posting of association contacts info, meetings, and events on the OSBA website and in the newsletter; liability insurance for group events; scholarships to the annual conference; matching funds for donations to research; and so forth. In addition, affiliated association presidents are voting members of the OSBA executive committee. As such, they are asked to bring information, guidance, and insight to the table, all of which are essential for informed decision-making. They are asked as well to be invested in OSBA through membership.

Much the same holds for OSBA regional representatives. Rather than acting as representatives for a given regional association

in their respective areas, as has been believed at times, regional representatives, elected by OSBA, represent *all* beekeepers in the region. Those who belong to no association as well as all association members, affiliated or not, are encouraged to access the reps and other OSBA resources. The reps are expected to take steps needed to stay informed and raise issues about bees and management as they occur. We have to be paying attention, knowledgeable, and aware of concerns—the sooner, the better—if we are to work effectively. Everyone thus has access to help in resolving disputes, complaints, and nuisance reports; educating in support of changes in local ordinances and regulations; use of [ask.a.beekeeper@orsba.org](mailto:ask.a.beekeeper@orsba.org) and the website Forum and Question of the Month in the newsletter (surely there are questions?); postings of available bee yards; all other materials provided on the website; participation in the OSBA booth at the Oregon State Fair; attending the annual conference; entry in the fair honey show and (when registered for the conference) the conference honey show; contributing to and bidding on auction items for research . . .

The “direct” benefits of OSBA membership include website resources and the newsletter (yes, available to everyone online), an annual directory, placement on the OSBA swarm call list, four free classified ads on the website per year, discounts on conference registration and subscriptions to *Bee Culture* and *American Bee Journal* . . . I hope though that OSBA members also recognize that their membership includes all the work of the organization for beekeeping throughout the state—work that as well includes efforts in the legislature for protection of pollinators; local initiatives; setting up an endowment for a university entomologist and research; collaboration with OSU in development and ongoing functioning of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, in managing grants, in the production of workshops and dissemination of relevant publications; making donations, matching donations, raising funds for research . . . Members contribute more than they may realize to concerns for beekeeping and pollinators of every stripe. Not one bit of any of what OSBA does would be possible without the membership: *You*.

How might the OSBA prepare now to address the changes we all know are coming down the pike? The officers, the regional reps, and the affiliated association presidents are the leadership. Yet, every member's participation matters—the energy, ideas, perspectives that engaged OSBA members share constitute today's organization. As new folks bring their genius and enthusiasm on board over the coming years, may we acknowledge what has gone before—give voice to and vote on issues with an understanding of what has been previously agreed or voted on, in accord with the OSBA constitution/bylaws—as we continue to grow the organization's capacity, reach, and impact. Recalibration, balancing, learning are necessary—always. Yet, we need to move from—and perhaps need to refine—our collective vision. Where are we focused, grounded? Where do we want to go? How might we best serve the needs of the system as a whole going forward? —RM

## Keeping Bees in November–December

*Morris Ostrofsky*

As we approach late fall and early winter, there are a number of management tasks we should consider. By this time you have done your fall inspection and the bees are settling in for the winter. Combining weak colonies is preferable to trying to keep each one going through winter. Joining two weak colonies versus adding a weak colony to strong is preferred. My suggestion is to use the newspaper method to do this. Don't forget both colonies need ventilation while being combined.

If you have not already done so, remove queen excluders, and add mouse guards.

While counterintuitive, it is not the cold but moisture that should concern us. As Rusty Burlaw of Honey Bee Suite ([honeybeesuite.com](http://honeybeesuite.com)) says there is a big difference experiencing a cold day with dry gloves versus wet. Wet gloves can lead to frostbite while dry gloves keep you comfortable. The air temperature is the same, but the moisture is the difference.

With that being said, think about this as you prepare your hives for winter. There are various ways to absorb excess moisture from the hive. I have found the use of an insulated/moisture box containing burlap or other absorbent material, such as old towels, to be very effective. The insulated/moisture box serves a dual purpose: it absorbs moisture and keeps the bees dry.

Start with a box that has the same footprint as a standard box. Then add 1/8-inch screened ventilation holes on the sides and cover the bottom with 1/8-inch hardware cloth to keep the absorbent materials in place. Drill a one-inch diameter hole in each of the four sides of the box. The holes allow some air flow.

Position the box just under the outer cover. Check the absorbent materials once or twice over the winter and replace them as needed. It is fun to see what you find in the insulation box in spring. I have found mushrooms, worms, and even a frog. Early spring is when I remove the insulation box.

Currently there is a change in opinion regarding the need for water retention in the hive during winter. This advice may change in the year to come.

There is not a 100% agreement on the value of an upper winter entrance. However, I no longer recommend an upper entrance due to the chimney effect and heat loss. Warm air is lost through the upper entrance and is replaced by cooler air coming in from below. The sticky board can also be used for additional moisture control. The objective is to provide ventilation while at the same time helping to block cold winter winds. Push it in roughly half way under the screened bottom board. This position is similar to what would be done for a mite count except it is pushed in halfway rather than all the way.

By November the bees should have stored approximately 80–100 pounds of honey. Less than this amount signals that continued feeding is necessary. Note that this fall has been much warmer

than normal. The bees may be consuming some of their winter stores. Keep an eye on the hive weight and feed as necessary.

According to Ann Harman, a popular contributor to *Bee Culture*, when daytime temperatures are consistently lower than 57 degrees F, we should switch from a liquid to a solid feed. At this temperature the bees have a more difficult time metabolizing sugar water and evaporating off excess moisture in the syrup. This is the time for solid feed. I like to use no cook candy. Rusty's Honey Bee Suite site has a recipe for no-cook candy. I find it a simple and effective way to feed the bees during winter.

During fall/winter the temperature occasionally reaches 50 degrees F or more. You should see your bees out doing cleansing flights. On these days if you notice that a hive is inactive, it warrants closer examination. Lightly tap the side of hive and listen for a response. If you find the hive is a dead out, a necropsy is in order. Try to determine why it failed. If you have any doubts, see if you can get a more experienced beekeeper to help. Bee labs such as OSU and Beltsville, Maryland, can also be used to diagnose American foulbrood and other diseases.

Hive entrances should be reduced this time of year to prevent robbing. You can easily make one yourself by using an appropriate size piece of wood. I like to block two-thirds of the entrance. It is easier for the guard bees to control a smaller entrance to the hive.

A mouse guard will prevent mice from using your hive as a warm, winter hide out. You can either purchase a mouse guard or make your own with 1/2-inch hardware cloth. The spacing of the hardware cloth allows the bees to pass through but stops mice. The entrance should also be periodically checked to make sure it is not plugged with dead bees. The undertaker bees don't carry bodies out very far when it is cold; they can pile up at the entrance.

November and December provide a late-season window of opportunity to deal with Varroa mites. After Thanksgiving the colony should be broodless. If your mite counts are still above 1%, this is when you can use oxalic acid because there is no brood that it can harm. This can be your final safety net for the year. I recommend using vapor application rather than dribble. With the dribble method, the bees have to consume the material to remove it from the hive. Consumption of oxalic acid is not recommended.

For the last several years I have used oxalic acid resulting in mite counts at almost zero percent the following spring. Please keep in mind that while oxalic acid is a great tool, it must be used at the appropriate time of year and safely. I suggest visiting Randy Oliver's website [www.scientificbeekeeping.com](http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com) for the latest application updates. Whatever method you choose, follow the directions exactly.

*Continued on page 13*

# EXPERIENCE THE PROS

**ML MANNLAKE<sup>®</sup>**  
EXCLUSIVE



## Pro-Sweet Liquid Feed

**NO CRYSTALLIZATION**  
**NO FERMENTATION**

- The choice of professional and backyard beekeepers.
- Ready to use. No Mixing.
- Stores longer, won't ferment like sugar water.
- Faster weight gain and better buildup of bees.
- Contains binomial and monomial sugars.



## ProHealth with Essential Oils

**STIMULATES BEES TO FEED**

- Use during early spring, later fall and during dearths of nectar to encourage bees to feed.

**AIDS IN OVERALL HEALTH**

- Builds up bees and helps them maintain digestion.

**BUILDS UP YOUR COLONY**

- Helps build up packages, nucs and swarms when added to your feeding mix. Also helps draw out new foundation faster when used as a spray.



## ProDFM Microbial Supplement

**BACKED BY SCIENCE**

- Reduced spore loads against disease causing pathogens, reducing infection rate.
- Increased detoxification of pollutants and harmful chemicals.
- All natural formula with 10 probiotics that reduces critical colony diseases.
- Restores bees' healthy bacteria, revitalizing their immunity.

# WAX-DIPPED WOODENWARE

**Provides Great Protection Against Sun and Rain**

- Wax dipping prevents wood rot caused by moisture and fungi.
- Greatly increases longevity of equipment.

**Lids and wooden hive stands available**



**ML MANNLAKE<sup>®</sup>**  
EXCLUSIVE



  
**THOUSANDS**  
of products

  
**EXCLUSIVE**  
online sales

**ML MANNLAKE<sup>®</sup>**  
MANNLAKELTD.COM  
**800-880-7694**

  
**SIX RETAIL**  
locations

  
**CUSTOMER SERVICE**  
for all your needs

Once the bees are tucked in for the winter, it is a good time to evaluate what you learned this year and make plans for next. Winter is also the time to build bee equipment and gizmos/gadgets. It is also a great time to read about bees and beekeeping. A great source of winter reading is Lars Chittka's newest book, *The Mind of a Bee*. I have also found *BEEKeeping Your First Three Years*, a newer publication from A.I. Root, to include valuable information even for someone like me with 50-plus years of beekeeping experience.

## BEEKEEPER EVENTS

### — 2022 —

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 Associations

#### Douglas County Bees

Douglas County Bees has a new executive board elect. The following members will take charge on January 1, 2023: President—Adrian Aramburu, Vice President—Charley Moyer, Secretary—Kimberly Kinney, Treasurer—Cynthia Moyer.

*Beau Miakinkoff*

#### Oregon Central Coast Beekeepers

At our September meeting, Ramesh Sagili from the OSU Honey Bee Lab spoke about research in the bee lab and the importance of having “fat bees” going into the winter months. He discussed the importance of checking the weight of your hives to be sure there is plenty of food stores. We also had a discussion about feeding pollen substitutes. We held a drawing for the free registration for the state conference in Florence at the end of the month, and one of our new members received the opportunity to attend.

*Pat Wackford*

#### Portland Metro Beekeepers

What a year it has been! The long, very wet spring created setbacks for many, but the rain created a strong nectar flow in many micro-regions within the Portland Metro area leading to a good honey year for many of our members. Though the nectar season has been steadily winding down, when the days are warm enough, bees are still drinking up the late-season nectar where they can find it, particularly from English ivy, heather, and rosemary.

We were delighted to offer tickets to the 2022 OSBA Fall Conference in Florence to three lucky association members. This is a fantastic event that beekeepers look forward to each

year. Amongst an all-star line up of great speakers presenting a variety of fascinating topics, our own president Paul Stromberg is presenting an exciting comparison of three methods of Varroa mite testing: Alcohol wash, sugar shake, and carbon dioxide.

With the 2022 beekeeping season behind us, winter is a prime time to read and study, and take inventory of supplies. While the bees are tucked in their winter clusters, beekeepers can prepare for the next season by replacing worn-out equipment, assembling new woodenware, and stocking up on pollen supplements and mite treatments. Those of us who just can't stay away from our girls can always spy on the hive by way of monitoring hive trash on screen bottom boards (a low-tech option) or watching the cluster with a thermal camera (a high-tech option).

In the Portland Metro area, the winter equinox is usually when brood production is at its lowest. This provides beekeepers with an excellent opportunity to treat their colonies for Varroa mites using oxalic acid when mites have few-to-no capped cells under which to hide. A good winter treatment is just one way to set our bees up for a successful spring.

Our members are looking forward to our December meet-up, where we will enjoy a potluck dinner, swap stories, and hand out some fabulous prizes. The holiday season is a great time to reflect on the challenges and successes of the past year, enjoy the company of our friends and acquaintances, and look to the season ahead with optimism and camaraderie.

*Jamie Caldwell*

#### Portland Urban Beekeepers

At this writing, we're deep into October and the gorgeous fall weather has meant extended flying days, loads of pollen, and even some nectar. I have no doubt we'll get our share of rain shortly, so I'm enjoying it while I can. This year I had a mix of extremely productive hives and others that are doing great but just didn't produce much honey. Probably a factor of our late spring rain and some plastic supers that were not very popular. Mite counts are low and I'm hoping (and planning) for overwinter success.

Our November and December meetings are in person—just for fun. We know people have enjoyed the ease of Zoom meetings, but our in-person social events have been successful, so an occasional in-person gathering seemed like a nice balance. Our October meeting featured a representative of the Xerces Society to talk about pollinators. It was an important reminder that honey bees get a lot of attention but are not the real work horses of the pollination game, and anyone who starts beekeeping to “save the bees” is not necessarily helpful. Many people (and bees!) would be much better served by ensuring there is natural habitat and resources for native bees and pollinators.

*Jessica Anderson*

#### Tillamook Beekeepers

Our October meeting was exciting and well attended. We invited Marion Bobirnac of Marion Berry Bees to give us a presentation



on his basic beekeeping principles, and a more in-depth look at his queen rearing practices.

Several of our members had already purchased one of his Varroa hygienic queens and we have seen great benefits from these ladies. For example, one of our members tested last week for mites in 5 hives. One hive had the hygienic queen, and the others were all Italians. The 4 Italian-queened hives all had from 7 to 8% mite count, and the hygienic queen hive only had 1%. Comparable results are being seen with the others that have his queens.

Marion brought with him a "one deep" hive with one of these queens, complete with 4 frames of honey and 5 frames of brood. He generously donated this hive as a door prize for those in attendance that day. The hive was won by Jamie Hula, our treasurer. In addition to the hive, his wife painted a beautiful 16" x 20" art piece that we will be auctioning off at the OSBA conference at the end of October. Marion's wife Mihaela is a world-renowned artist, with paintings in galleries in Paris, Monaco, Rome, Naples,



Vienna, Austria, Munich, and New York Art Expo.

As an association, we recently purchased the newest oxalic vaporizer tool on the market, and it will be used by members many hundreds of times over in the coming months. We purchased the Lorobees InstantVap 18V. This is completely battery operated, and the first time we used it, we were able to treat 8 hives with 2 grams of oxalic acid in about 5 minutes and still had battery power to spare. Our model uses 20-volt Milwaukee lithium batteries. We can't say enough about how great and convenient this tool is. We highly encourage all beekeepers to check it out.



*Brad York*

### Willamette Valley Beekeepers

The Willamette Valley Beekeepers (WVBA) did their Varroa mite treatments back in August, but continue to monitor the mites as the weather continues to be warm into October. Honey production continues to be based on how well you took care of your bees and where they are located. Some did well on honey, and some didn't. That seems to be the way it's been for some time now.

We had an outstanding speaker for the September meeting. Thad Starr shared on matters of the queen and the hive. The membership really enjoyed his presentation. Nathan Richard won the OSBA scholarship registration to the conference. The WVBA membership voted to donate \$1,000 to OSU's bee program.

*Richard Farrier*



# Proven Queens



## Queens shipped April- September



Wooten's Queens & Bees, Inc. | Steve Park Apiaries, Inc. | Wooters Bee Farms

Major Credit Cards Accepted | 888-565-8439 | [order@wootensqueensbees.com](mailto:order@wootensqueensbees.com)  
[www.wootensqueensbees.com](http://www.wootensqueensbees.com)



## Oregon State Beekeepers Association Membership Form

The **Oregon State Beekeepers Association** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization representing and supporting all who have an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in bees and beekeeping. Members do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. Membership includes the ongoing work of the organization on behalf of the honey bee and beekeeping, a vote in OSBA elections, swarm call listing, four free online classified ads per year, discounts on publications, and an annual directory and subscription to *The Bee Line*.

Please send check made payable to OSBA with a **completed form for each individual to:**

**Oregon State Beekeepers Association, Membership**  
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd, Ste 517, Portland, Oregon 97206

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  New Member  Membership Renewal

**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **MI:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type:**  Small scale (less than 25)  Sideliner (25–300)  Commercial (more than 300)

**Mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletter:** Please select version:  Digital  Print **County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Directory:** The OSBA respects the privacy of members. Please indicate contact information to be included in a directory mailed to OSBA members only:

Do not include contact information

Share all information **OR Share:**  mailing address  phone number  e-mail address

**Local group, if member:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Voluntary contribution(s):**

General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Research Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** To renew or join online, please visit:  
[orsba.org/membership](http://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 are applied through December 2023.



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



Warm wishes of the season, Everyone!

### **The Bee Line**

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

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

The next issue to be printed will be the **January–February 2023** issue. The deadline for submitting copy is **December 10, 2022**. Please let me know if you find difficulties with the deadline so we can work out the space and timing for the material.

*May all be well!*

### **Advertising**

#### **Per Issue**

#### **Event Listing**

All events, space permitting (15 words) Free

For a nonprofit group event, an additional 30 words (total of 45) in the listing or an article Free

#### **Advertising**

Business card \$10.00

Quarter page \$25.00

Half page \$50.00

Full page \$100.00

#### **Classified Ad (30 words)**

Members \$3.00

Nonmembers \$5.00