



The Bee Line

Volume 48

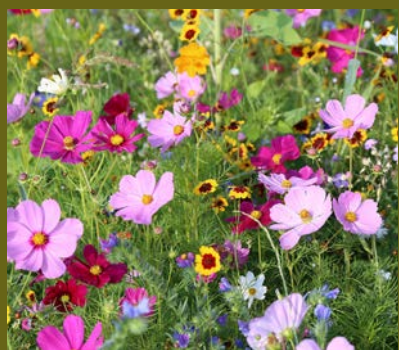
Number 4

May 2023

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Pollinator Habitat

Tammy Horn Potter, Kentucky State Apiarist



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

Image above: Soon, any day now, Oregon's grand thermometer will move off of this spring's long "pause" to the delight of pollinators everywhere—and all the rest of us!

In 2014, Dr. James Tew (Ohio State University) estimated that on average, a moveable-frame hive needed 252 million flowers, blooming from mid-February to November to produce the amount of honey needed for a full calendar year. Because my husband Doug and I have 200 hives, we have been working with our local NRCS agent and FSA agent to convert some of our cropland to pollinator habitat since 2015. After eight years, our hives still benefit from our portion of a 50/50 cost-share of wildflower seed (\$7500.00 in 2016). We have had a few months of severe drought, but the Conservation Reserve and the NRCS flower plots provide nectar and pollen, although we do have to manage those plots.

Our management strategy has taken three forms: an initial "three-season herbicide kill" beginning with the first application of glyphosate in August 2015. We followed that application with a second application of glyphosate in mid-October before the first frost. In March 2016, we applied a third application of glyphosate. We finally planted flower seed after this application.

Even though the wildflowers are perennial, we cannot just plant and leave. Johnson grass, Canadian thistle, garlic mustard, and woody vegetation are constant enemies. So our second management strategy is to mow at least once a year, sometimes twice if we have time. Our third strategy is to do a prescribed fire burn about every four-five years.

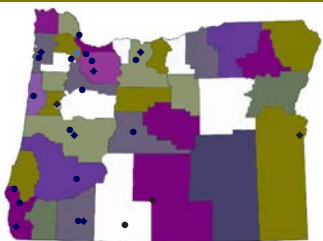
If you are interested in creating more pollinator habitat on a larger scale, landowners or gardeners should remember that the first step should be to have a soil test (or tests) done. For instance, soil in eastern Kentucky is not alkaline enough for alsike clover. Other types of clover do fine, but not alsike. So, it would be a waste of money and time to plant alsike clover. Soil tests are often very reasonable (only \$15.00 here in Lexington, Kentucky). And winter is a great time to get this done at the cooperative extension office, when the agent is not as busy.

Because I have to fight invasive plants on my farm, I tend to plant native flowering species to crowd out. However, USGS scientist Dr. Clint Otto's research indicates a mix of invasive and native flowers tend to do better at attracting the most diversity of bees. As with any habitat project, much depends on soil science, climate, and landowner objectives. Here is the link to a talk between The Bee and Butterfly Habitat Foundation director Pete Berthelsen and USGS scientist Clint Otto: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvEbYAuIecczzz>.

To conclude, it helps me to remember garden historian, Mac Griswold, who once said: "Gardening is the slowest of the performing arts." For twenty years, my family farm was neglected and invasive plants took over much of the fences and waterways. Slowly, in the past seven years, the pollinator habitat is beginning to advance in those areas after years of chainsawing, loping, burning, mowing, disking, etc. And not one moment too soon. Climate change is happening, more quickly than predicted, and it remains to be seen how flowers and bees will adapt to warmer temperature or earlier blooms. So, the pollinator habitat on my farm, which is surrounded by horse farms and soybeans, means that my bees have access to clovers, mints, and goldenrods. In this vast science experiment that we humans have created with climate, agriculture, and greenhouse gases, the one action I can take is to provide forage for my hives.

Note: Tammy Horn Potter presented "Pollinator Habitat" during our 2022 Fall Conference.

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



OSBA OFFICERS

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Nathan Rich—mnmrichard@gmail.com

South Willamette Valley

Tim Wydronek—541.740.4127; timwydronek@comcast.net

• AFFILIATED REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Central Coast Beekeepers Association

Meets 1:30 PM, fourth Wednesday, Newport
Co-Vice President: Pat Wackford—pwacky@charter.net
Website: www.ccbaor.org

Central Oregon Beekeepers Association

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

Columbia County Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 PM, first Thursday, St. Helens
President: Linda Zahl—503.799.7073

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers Association

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

Coos Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:00 pm, fourth Thursday, Myrtle Point
President: Ann Marineau—annmarineau@gmail.com

Klamath Basin Beekeepers Association

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

Lane County Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:30 PM, third Tuesday, Eugene
President: Fonta Molyneaux—wildeverlastingfarm@gmail.com
Website: www.lcbaor.org

Linn Benton Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:30 PM, third Wednesday, Corvallis
President: Steve Oda—steve@lbba.us
Website: www.lbba.us

Oregon Prison Beekeepers

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

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:00 PM, third Thursday, Gold Beach
President: Maarten Van Otterloo—maartyvo@gmail.com

Portland Metro Beekeepers Association

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: Brent Hirak—president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:30 PM, first Monday, Central Point
President: Noah Clipp—noahtitus@gmail.com
Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Tillamook Beekeepers Association

Meets 11:30 AM, second Saturday, Tillamook
President: Brad York—dbradleyork@gmail.com
Website: www.tillamookbeekeepers.org

Tualatin Valley Bee Keepers Association Inc

Meets 6:00 PM, last Tuesday, virtually-North Plains
President: Debby Garman—tualatinvalleybeekeepers@gmail.com
Website: tvbabees.org

Umpqua Valley Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:00 PM, first Wednesday, Roseburg
President: Adrian Aramburu—adrockz@msn.com
Website: www.umpquavalleybeekeepers.org

Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association

Meets 7:00 PM, fourth Monday, Salem
President: Richard Farrier—rfarrierfarms@gmail.com
Website: wvbahive.org

Message from the President

The OSBA Picnic will be July 8 at Willamette Mission State park, Lake B picnic shelter. This affair will be a potluck and the whole family is invited. The OSBA will supply paper plates, cups and eating utensils, and hot dogs and hamburgers. More details will follow in the next issue of *The Bee Line*. I will be coordinating the OSBA picnic this year since the OSBA activities director has an illness in her family that requires her attention. Anyone who would like to help with the planning for this event please feel free to contact me.

Joe Maresh

Bee License Plate Update

Andony Melathopoulos

By the time you read this piece, the bee license plate is in the process of being produced by DMV. We expect the plates will be available in early fall for pick up. This means, if you bought a voucher in January, you will be able to walk into DMV and pick up your plate. Otherwise, you can go to DMV with cash-in-hand and pick up a plate when they become available.

Also, we plan to auction off the low numbers (so BZ0001-00020 (excluding 00002 and 00005)). The auction goes live on April 15 and will end on world Bee Day (May 20). You can access the auction at the following link: <https://beav.es/Sna>.

Note, two plates (BZ00015 and BZ00010) will be auctioned at the OSBA conference in Bend in October.

Finally, your association can help generate buzz for the forthcoming plate. We have table cloths available for tabling at events, as well as postcards with information on the plate. If your association commits to do at least two outreach events this summer (e.g., a farmers market) we will ship you one of the table cloths and set of cards. Contact Jen Larsen at OSU if you are interested: Jen.Larsen@oregonstate.edu. And remember, if you have any questions about the plate, visit the website at oregonbeeplate.org.

OSBA 2023 Summer Picnic

Bonnie King

The 2023 OSBA Summer Picnic is Saturday, July 8. We have a fun day planned with speakers, workshops, and great beekeeping camaraderie! The festivities begin at 10:30 AM and will finish up around 4 PM. It's a potluck, so bring your favorite dish. We'll supply plates, utensils, and drinks. Come to all, or even part of the day. The location is Willamette Mission State Park, a gorgeous retreat into the Oregon countryside, in Gervais. The park is easy to find, located eight miles north of Salem and only minutes from I-5.

Please note that Willamette Mission has a \$5.00 day-use parking fee.

After the picnic, you're encouraged to enjoy the vastness of the Willamette Mission State Park. We'll be just east of the Willamette River and adjacent to the Wheatland Ferry, so you can explore almost 15 miles of trails; walk through the historic Methodist Mission; throw a hook in the water somewhere; or venture to see the nation's largest black cottonwood tree, at more than 155-feet tall. If you have questions or would like to help in the planning of this event, please contact President Joe Maresh or Bonnie King.

Note: joemaresh@bctonline.com; bonjking@gmail.com

OSBA Executive Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2023

Present: Joe Maresh, Jeremy Mitchell, Becca Fain, Barbara Derkacht, Bonnie King, Brad York, Adrian Aramburu, Debbie Garman, Lorena Corzatt, Mike Rodia, Mureen Walker, Nathan Richard, Pat Wackford, Rick Olson, Steve Oda

President Joe Maresh called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Becca Fain, reported that we are at about the same place as we were last year at this time. Our financial position remains good. The complete report was shared.

There was an increase in savings primarily due to money raised

in the Centennial Fund drive. There is still money to come in from the 2022 conference auction, which Glory Bee matches dollar for dollar. Save the Bee Foundation also contributes to this fund.

Becca pointed out that our savings account monies should be in a different kind of account to get more interest. One suggestion was Schwab Investments as the money is fluid. Becca will research possibilities.

Minutes of Jan. 13, 2023 meeting- minutes were sent out again with the agenda for this meeting. Lorena Corzatt moved

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and Barbara Derkacht seconded a motion to accept the minutes of that meeting as presented. Motion passed.

Grants and Foundations – no new report at this time

Activities Report – Bonnie King

Ag Fest – Bonnie is organizing OSBA's participation in this event but needs workers. Sign up for a slot!

Picnic – Joe Maresh is going to oversee this event. He's looking at two possible dates: July 8 or July 22 and is trying to see if Willamette Mission State Park is available as a site; if that's not available, perhaps Champoege State Park would be a possibility

Salem storage unit – was inventoried March 12, things were moved into a different unit and this is a big improvement. There are some no-longer-needed items which will be offered for sale. A list will come out later. Mike Rodia has kindly agreed to pay for the first year the difference in rent between the old, cheaper storage unit and the new one.

State Fair – Bonnie has some new ideas which she will share later. Debbie Garman has fixed things so Bonnie can now post to OSBA's Facebook page. Look for news.

Webmaster, Newsletter, Directory, and Membership Report

– Rosanna Mattingly (sent via email)

Website

- Monthly items have been/are being updated, and additional uploads will be completed soon.
- The booking link for lodging that Jeremy sent has been added; will transfer it to the conference portion of the site when enough information is available to design that portion.
- Please send presenter info, etc., as it becomes available for adding in--it will similarly be transferred to the future conference site.
- The swarm call list is open and being updated as requests come in. More than 3/4 have required additional queries for required information. Folks requesting placement on the list who are not members of OSBA are being invited to join.
- The link on the site for automatically adding names for Mailchimp postings has been removed as a result of increased limits on free use of the platform.
- Scams that have been ongoing for many years now continue. They are not unique to OSBA. To my knowledge, they are limited essentially to officers, reps, and at times association presidents. Although membership has not been targeted, the scams are becoming increasingly clever. Please continue to check the email source with care should anything seem "off" in the least.

Newsletter

- Thank you as always for materials and reports. We do want and need to know how things are going!
- Additional stories, experiences of events, special concerns and interests, as well as photos and event information, are welcome.
- Although Joe M said he requested articles from presenters when setting up the 2022 conference, even with mailing out

printed copies of the newsletter with a written request this year the response has been the lowest ever. I will follow up again with some soon, go from there, yet if there's a way to increase emphasis on this aspect with presenters for 2023, please do. And please provide presenter contact information--some delay a bit in sending in their registration forms for the conference. Presenter contributions have been important for reference, review, ongoing learning...

- The next newsletter is the May issue with an April 10 deadline. Given the timing of this meeting, if you have something that will need an extra day, please let me know ahead of time so we can work it out.

Directory

- Directories for 2023 have been printed and mailed out.
- Extra directories are being tabbed and mailed as folks continue to renew and join. Postage for the extra copies is about \$1 each more than it has been in the past. Even though the booklets are being tabbed as tightly as possible, the issue is a USPS "slot" they need to pass through. They pass, yet every clerk I've taken them to this year has indicated they do not meet a requirement for how easily.

Agriculture Liaison Report – No report at this time

Residential Beekeeping Report – Mike Rodia

LBBA had a class and wanted some a history about how residential beekeeping got to where it is today. He provided additional copies of the Handbook/Guidelines to the LBBA, Willamette Valley and Lane County/Glory Bee beekeepers.

Mike has additional copies of the Residential Beekeeping Handbook available, so if your association needs some, please let him know.

Old Business

- Donations to OSU
 - o Donation to Agriculture Research Foundation from the 2022 conference: So far, \$4,600 has been sent to the Bee Lab, with another \$500 to be sent soon.
 - o OSBA is the fiduciary agent for a federal grant of \$5,000 to help fund the Spanish language master beekeeping program.
- 2023 conference update – Jeremy Mitchell
 - o Great progress has been made. Jeremy has made a preliminary schedule and most speakers are set up. (It looks to be a wonderful conference!)
 - o Recruitment of sponsors and vendors is coming along, but Jeremy would like some help with contacting people/companies. A blanket email just doesn't work well; personal phone calls are more productive. Let Jeremy know when you can help make some of those calls.
- Survey of OSBA members is coming along and will be out later this year.

New Business

- o Appointments to Executive Board: *Continued on page 14*



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Keeping Bees in May

Lynn Royce

It is still spring in May, and Oregon spring weather is known for changing quickly. The old saying, “If you do not like the weather, wait a minute” applies. Honey bees are ready for good weather; they want to forage and gather lots of nectar and pollen for their colony. Colonies grow quickly when foraging is good. This can lead to swarming, something that beekeepers like to control so that they do not lose production and/or colonies.

This time of year, colonies can also be more susceptible to robbing. Larger colonies will use up stores more quickly and can find it easier to take from smaller colonies that may have few defenders to protect food supplies.

If several bad weather days occur in a row, colonies may run out of food. As bees die and fall to the bottom board, the entrance can become blocked. When this happens, the bees may be confined to the hive even when the weather improves. If the beekeeper does not intervene soon enough, the colony will starve. After I lost one of my largest spring colonies to this problem, I now make sure my bees have an upper entrance. I also check and clean entrances often.

Entrances can become busy in spring as colonies grow. A busy entrance may also be caused by invaders from other colonies,

robber bees. Look closely at the behavior of the bees at the entrance. Are bees coming and going normally, or is there fighting at the entrance? You can also see dead bees at the entrance or in front of the hive when the activity is created by robber bees. If you suspect robbing, you can reduce the entrance of the colony being invaded. However, the best solution may be to move the colony under attack. Remember, a new location must be at least 3 miles away.

Contact with other beekeepers can be very helpful when new locations are needed for whatever reason. A good place to meet other beekeepers can be beekeeping classes, bee lectures, and association meetings. Bee problems are not restricted to new beekeepers. Having contacts and talking with others is good for all of us. So, join associations and go to meetings (both local and state); also read your newsletters.

Where you locate a colony is a good question to solve before your bees arrive. Bees like a sunny location, floral and water sources nearby.

If you will have the bees where neighbors are close, it is best to discuss with your neighbor before the bees arrive. Respect the fear that they may have of bees. Also remember that bee dropping can be a problem for neighbors close by. A jar or two of honey can be helpful in many situations.

A Favorite Honey Bee Plant: May

Glen Andresen, glen@bridgetownbees.com

Scientific name: *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*

Common name: Blue Blossom, Ceanothus, California lilac, wild lilac

Portland-area bloom time: April, May, June

I used to keep up to a half-dozen hives at Leach Botanical Garden in SE Portland. It was a joy to tend to the bees there, mostly because the head gardener, Scotty (a former beekeeper himself), and I would have deep philosophical and political discussions. And the garden was—and is—beautiful. In fact, I was married there, many years ago now. I would sell some of the honey produced there in the gift shop. (I still sell honey there, but it's not from the Leach grounds; after their expansive multi-million-dollar renovation a couple of years ago there wasn't the opportunity to have hives on the property.)

In any event, this is the location where I was first introduced to this month's favorite bee plant, *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*. The bees, mostly honey bees, and several species of bumble bees and others, were all over it, mostly collecting pollen (as I later learned). I purchased the plant at one of Leach's plant sales and planted in my parking strip. It has done well, but would do even better with a deep watering or two



Honey bee approaching Ceanothus with pollen collecting on its mind and legs.

each July and August.

I've also learned, by experience and reading, that not all Ceanothus are created equal when it comes to attracting honey bees. There are quite a few species, all quite beautiful, but not all attract honey bees. So, be sure to ask for Blue Blossom!

BEEKEEPER EVENTS

— 2023 —

May 20: World Bee Day. Efforts of the Government of Slovenia with Apimondia support led the UN General Assembly to declare 20 May as World Bee Day in 2018. The date coincides with the birthday of Anton Janša, who pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia in the 18th century. (How will you celebrate?)

June 1: Apiary Registration Deadline. Every person who owns, or is in charge of, five or more colonies of bees located within the state or Oregon, must register each year with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The form needed to register colonies is located at: apps.oregon.gov/SOS/LicenseDirectory/LicenseDetail/606 or obtained in person by visiting: 635 Capitol Street NE, Salem OR 97301.

The current cost of apiary registration is \$10 with an additional charge of \$0.50 per colony for five or more hives. After July 1, the registration fee will increase to \$20. The fee per hive remains at \$0.50 per colony for five or more hives. The number of colonies that must be registered is equal to the highest number of full strength colonies managed within the state at any point during the previous year, prior to the registration deadline of June 1. All money collected from apiary registration shall be spent on research at the OSU Honey Bee Lab predominantly focused on honey bees (honeybeelab.oregonstate.edu).

June 3–6: 2023 International Conference on Pollinator Biology, Health and Policy. Penn State. Information: iee.psu.edu/events/2023-international-conference-pollinator-biology-health-and-policy.

June 19–25: Pollinator Week: Pollinators and Climate Change. Information: <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week>. (Let us know how you participate this year!)

July 8, 10:30 AM–4 PM: OSBA Summer Picnic/ Willamette Mission State Park, Gervais, OR 97026. Information: See page 3.

July 31–August 4: Eastern Apiculture Society Conference, Past, Present and Beyond. Amherst, Massachusetts. Information: easternapiculture.org/conference/eas-2023/.

August 25–September 4: Oregon State Fair. Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center. Salem.

September 4–8: 48th International Congress, Apimondia. Santiago, Chile. Information: <https://apimondia2023.com/>.

September 29–October 1. 2023 WAS International Conference. Calgary, Canada. Information: <https://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/webinar-registration>.

October 7–8: WASBA Pacific Northwest Beekeeping Conference. Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake, Olympia WA. Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wasba-pacific-northwest-beekeeping-conference-tickets-549671541377>.

October 27–29: OSBA 2023 Fall Conference. The

Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center, Bend. Information: <https://orsba.org/osba-fall-conference/>.

Conference Volunteers Wanted! The OSBA Conference Committee is looking for volunteers. We are currently seeking individuals to join the committee who are interested helping with the following:

- Audio/Visual
- Registration and Information Desk
- Auctions and Donations
- Honey Judging

Please contact OSBA Vice President Jeremy Mitchell at osba.vice.president@gmail.com for more information.

November 14–16: 2023 California State Beekeepers Association Annual Convention. Hilton Orange County/ Costa Mesa. Information: <https://www.california-statebeekeepers.com/annual-convention/>.

Note: See also respective regional association events in regional news, next page. And please let us know what you have shared and learned!

Classified Ads

FOR SALE: 80% of components needed to build a **hive loader**, including mast, electric motors, gear reducers, hydraulic pump, brackets. \$400. Please call for details: Kenny Williams, (541) 456-2631.

Equipment. 10 frame equipment. All good condition. Good comb. Westerns, Semi-Deeps, Deeps. Empty boxes, all three types. Tops, bottoms, metal excluders. Eight frame Extractor, hot knife, and more. Priced to sell. Contact: (541) 231-3225.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representative

Southwestern Oregon

Spring is arriving, at last, to Southern Oregon. Lots of pollen from willows and other riparian vegetation. Wild and ornamental cherries are now blooming, as well as manzanita. Many hives returning from the almonds tore out drone brood as they adapted to wintry Oregon conditions, but drone populations remain in the hives. These hives required supplemental syrup feeding, but have maintained adequate pollen stores. Swarm control management will begin in earnest with splits and added boxes. For bees going into pollination contracts, this can be problematic, as hives must be uniform height to transport. Hive inspection every other week can help prevent swarms.

Using swarm cells for spring divides is more labor intensive than dividing with mated queens or grafted queen cells, but helps retain the genetic diversity of a beekeeping operation. While precocious swarmers and late swarming hives (maybe weak) are undesirable, our strongest hives can be propagated with their swarm cells, ensuring perpetuation of the hive's genetic traits.

Andrew Watson

Regional Associations

Central Oregon Beekeepers Association

Aaah, so it isn't a perpetual winter. We're getting some nicer weather finally with flowers blooming everywhere and fruit trees and decorative trees as well. As the saying goes about March and the lion and the lamb, it was April for us. Anyway, we're happy it's finally arrived. With the current snowpack, we're hearing that more of our farmers will get at least some of their irrigation allocations this summer (YAY). Many of our suppliers have had delays for nucs and packages because of the weather in the almonds. We hope things work out well for them in the longer term. Even with the wonderful blooms, we're still within the frost season until June, so we can plant some vegetables, but more tender ones will need to wait another month. Not much native forage for honey bees, but the manzanita is a great draw for many of the native bees.

Over the last two months, we had a talk about laying workers and drone-laying queens, as well as a wonderful discussion on spring prep and equalizing. Coming up in May will be a discussion about current research at the OSU Honey Bee Lab.

We'll be scheduling some hands-on seminars through the summer (see our website for dates and topics) and have the opportunity to learn from the "Saturday in the Apiary" programs at COAREC in Madras. As always, please accept our invitation to attend any of our meetings, 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30(ish) at The Environmental Center in Bend. *Allen Engle*

Coos Beekeepers Association

A few weeks ago, eight association members attended a hive inspection of our association training hives. Both overwintered really well, having plenty of bees with frames of capped honey left, and both are queenright. The inspection was an opportunity to teach, learn, help, and enjoy the bees. It also highlighted our crumbling apiary fence. Soon after, several generous members and five local lumber yards have donated enough supplies for us to rebuild the apiary fence (24' x 16').



Last week, we were offered a vendor table at the Master Gardeners local seminar where we answered questions, had an observation hive, and a door prize of . . . honey, of course. Many people stopped by and showed interest in the association.

Ann Marineau

Lane County Beekeepers Association

I know I'm not the only beekeeper out there with ants in their pants this March and April! We had only 6 days in March that were warm and dry enough for bees to fly where I live outside Cottage Grove. Six out of 31 days isn't much to write home about and as I write this on April 6 we have yet to have a day over 55 degrees or one to look forward to in the 10 day forecast! I served everyone up a big pot of ambition soup at our last meeting with my presentation "3x infinity - 3 degrees of frame based Queen Propagation." This presentation demystifies making increases in 3 different ways based on how many queens you want, your skillset, and the weather. It was such a delight to have folks emailing, texting, and giving me so much feedback and interest in this vast subject as they made spring plans for their apiaries both large and small. In beekeeping there are so many ways to do a thing! I like to compare it to cooking with my Gran! I'd be like, Gran I need your recipe for your famous gumbo! And she'd say, there's no recipe! It's a little of this and a little of that! Beekeeping is much like that! Folks develop a finesse to the practice. It truly is an art and a science! But there are basic recipes you can learn that will guide you into a place of confidence that you can riff on later! In the case of Gran's gumbo, she taught me how to make a good roux, which has not only specific steps but rules, timing, and careful observation. Once I learned that skill I could make my own, although it was never as good as hers! Cooking and Beekeeping are arts and I love the creative aspects and innovation folks bring to it!

As a teacher I like to teach folks foundational recipes. These skills are tools that we can build upon as our aptitude develops. Sustainability is paramount. We need our apiaries to be resilient enough to be able to bounce back from loss and expand and share

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good locally adapted genetics. I think this is also a huge aspect to developing food security in Oregon even as small farmers and backyard enthusiasts our work is meaningful beyond our own interests. I'm so grateful for the collective knowledge in our beekeeping community that continues to teach and share resources largely through bee associations.

This April we have a presentation from Mandy Shaw on Swarm Catching! She is the former president of the Portland Urban Beekeepers Association, the host of the wildly popular podcast *Beekeeper Confidential*, and the creator of the Bella Beek handmade veil! She was featured on National Geographic's short film series for her featurette "Swarm Chaser" and we are so lucky to have her to present her work to us! She will share all her tips and tricks for not only catching swarms but swarm behavior and biology as well as swarm suppression! Skills that no doubt will come in handy once the warm dry weather hits us! May your Hives and Hearts be full as we begin the season however wet and wild it may be! *Fonta Molyneaux*

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association

Oregon South Coast beekeepers had the first full-size attendance since 2019, the usual thirty or so, in March, with a hiving demonstration by our local and only commercial beekeeper, Russ Rose along with wife Babbette. He is an excellent honey bee educator, with warm humor, plenty of demonstration, and detail. He and Babbette have volunteered a great many hours to promote beekeeping along the coast of southern Oregon and northern California. Again we were impressed by his use of his spacer board when he showed the kinds of things that can go wrong when trying to get that little piece of metal on the queen cage to hang onto a frame and then showed how easy it is for him to place the spacer and just lay the queen on top of a middle frame, slap in a pollen patty at the far end, and close up with the inner cover and the lid. We were inspired to build our own spacers like they have been using ever since their mentor, a professor at the college where they were studying to become beekeepers, advised them of the benefits of using a rectangle that perfectly fit inside the inner cover, the outer dimensions of a wooden entrance reducer with an opening in the rear end piece routed out the same size as the larger opening and anchored by 2 nail centered to allow the board to be rotated to open or closed position for ventilation.

At the prior monthly meeting, the presenter was Harvey Young, who had been for years a local member, vp, and then president of OSCBA before joining up with Risa Halpin and Agate Honey Bees. When I was in the area to pick up some beekeeping supplies in Central Point, I was able to join in on the major Queen Bee hunt with Harvey, Risa, and a generous neighboring beekeeper volunteer queen hunter. The several hundred colonies in double deeps had returned Sunday from pollinating in northern California, and Wednesday just happened to be the

first sunny day, partially cloudy, but warm. The bees seemed happy. The beekeepers were eagerly anticipating pear blossom time! They are based next to Bear Creek to the south and the Rogue River a bit farther north, which explains why there are so many agates on the valley floor, including the fields of the bee yard; hence, the name. The job was to find the queen, make sure she was securely in the bottom box with everything she needed for that box to go solo—frames of brood, egg laying space, honey and pollen—place the queen excluder on top, and reset the upper box ready to split off and raise a new queen. Risa not only grafts their own queens, but lifts just as many boxes of bees as anyone else on the project. Oh, my back . . . She reported that during the pollination job, mid-February until nearly the end of March, the weather was so bad that there had been only ten fly days. They fed all their bees for the entire time to keep their populations up. Only a few days after I was there for the first of the several hundred colonies of the queen hunt, I got word that the new queen cells had been placed and the virgins were expected to fly the next Monday, with fair weather predicted! If all goes well, the nucs from there are expected to be ready for delivery at the nearly the same time as the packages of bees arrive from Sacramento area, both delayed by the weather. Russ and Babbette Rose are planning to pick up the packages for their own apiary, for association members, and for other bee friends to deliver to the meeting area on April 19.

The weather has been nearly continuously overwhelmingly wet, cold, dark, and outpouring of atmospheric river, even into the usual time of expectations of delightful April showers backlit by veiled rays of sun. The bees have been seen, during brief breaks in rowdy weather, foraging on heather, scant blossoms on plum trees, and the dependable rosemary. Where those bees are nested is unknown, since all the kept colonies within that particular area of observation have failed. Perhaps there can be renewed hope for survival in the wild. *Mureen Walker*

Portland Metro Beekeepers Association

Rain and soggy in April means spring is finally here on the PMBA beekeeping calendar. Sadly, we have witnessed catastrophic weather changes across our country and mother nature is clearly in charge. This year has been particularly challenging for commercial beekeepers with California rain and cold weather having slowed almond bloom progression and bee flight.

Dandelions, pussy willow, heather, and red flowering current are in bloom in our yard. I am preparing my two hives to welcome two nucleus colonies from Foothills Honey Company in Colton. The first distribution of nucleus colonies was April 8 with temperatures in the high 40s, overcast, and no rain. Our hardworking and optimistic gathering of volunteers, alongside Joe Hansen and Joe Maresh on their forklifts, transferred 164 nucs to 70 members this year. We have a second distribution

scheduled for April 29. We know these honey bees will appreciate our Oregon sunshine, which is right around the corner :).



Nuc Distribution in early April—a day that provided 164 new starts for 70 PMBA members.

Keeping the weather forecast in mind does help us manage our beekeeping strategies. Temperatures are erratic, nectar may be scarce even though pollen may be plentiful. Beekeepers are feeding 1:1 syrup, supplementing with dry pollen and pollen patties, particularly if starting a nucleus colony.

We are grateful to the knowledge and experience that accompanies our upcoming April lecture, Dr. Dewey Caron, who will be discussing “Beekeeping basics: Building up your nucs, spring management, and dead colony forensics” (yikes!). Additionally, we reflect on last month’s presentation by Andony who reminds us that colonies are changing quickly from winter to summer bees, and we must stay ahead of explosive colony growth which is right around the corner. Three factors contribute to swarming: big colonies, colony congestion, and young adult bees emerging all at once. His suggestions to decrease swarming are: Even out space within colonies by transferring frames, reverse brood boxes, and make a split or nucleus colony. Timing is everything and we must stay ahead of our bees. As mentioned last month, our swarm list is active, and members will be notified by a new call blasting feature on our swarm hotline. Our last two weekends are dedicated to queen rearing, this popular event went to lottery again this year.

We look forward to our participation with the Master Gardener Spring Fair at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in Canby May 6–7. We have a new logo, signage, and a great group of volunteers with an observation hive to excite new beekeepers. Our key event is the following weekend with Bee Day, May 13. Sign up is online with space limited to 150. This year our speakers are John Rockrohr from Our Biz is BEES and Ramesh Sagili from OSU. Lectures are spaced between two sessions in the Hansen apiary with experienced beekeepers for hive inspections. Lunch is included with registration, an option to purchase new PMBA t-shirts as well as tickets for a very robust list of raffle items. This year’s raffle participants could walk away with a donated new flow hive, pottery, gardening vouchers, massage gift certificates, and much more! We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit so all funds raised go to honey bee education and research. We anticipate beautiful weather and a great turnout. Have a wonderful spring everyone!

Sandi Collis

Portland Urban Beekeepers Association

As our new PUB Board transitioned into 2023, one thing became clear—we wanted to move back towards in-person meetings. It was apparent at our Bee Days, which take place at our association apiary in NW Portland, that there was a huge appetite for gathering together to learn. We continue to draw strong numbers of inquisitive people who are eager to get hands-on experience and learn directly from experts. We also started a monthly informal get together, our Gather & Blather events. This is usually a Saturday afternoon meet-up at a coffee shop for casual bee-centric conversation. The draw to commune pushed us to re-start in-person monthly meetings in April. Part of it was recognizing the a big portion of our membership exists for a place on the Swarm List. This group is less interested in the monthly meetings, and it’s great we can offer that for them. The other portion are folks who really want direct engagement—newer beekeepers who are looking to build skills, find mentors, and be part of an active community. The PUB Board is making a conscious effort to direct engagement towards that group.

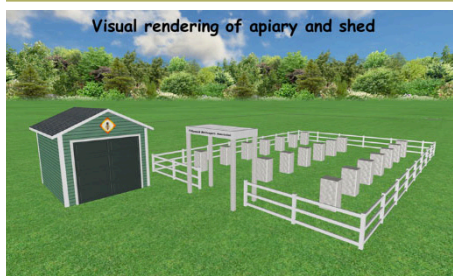
As for our April meeting, it was wonderful to be back in Multnomah Friends Meeting House where we last met in early 2020. We had a solid turnout, both in person and online, and hosted OSU’s Dr. Ramesh Sagili via Zoom. As we move forward, it’s likely we’ll end up with a mix of online and in-person meetings, but it felt like a really good start. And given the weather in the Portland area thus far, all we have these days is talking about the fun to come. Soon the rain will clear and we’ll have even more reasons to come together.

Jessica Anderson

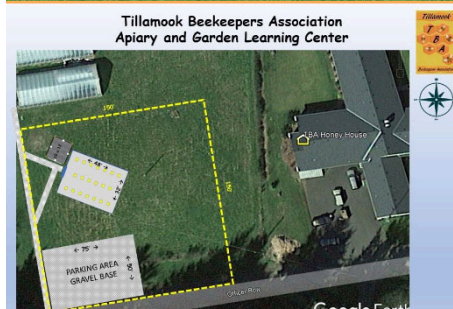
Tillamook Beekeepers Association

The Tillamook Beekeepers Association has broken ground on our TBA Apiary and Garden Learning Center. We have been gifted a lease on a ½ acre piece of property at the Port of Tillamook Bay to develop into a showcase apiary and garden as part of a developing Innovative Food Hub at the Port. We are next door to hoop houses managed by Food Roots. Other food-related businesses and organizations are being encouraged by the Port and Visit Tillamook Coast tourism advisory to participate in the Food Hub project as well.

We have wanted a teaching apiary for some time, and this was our opportunity. There will be several types of hives, observation hives, bee-friendly plants, shrubs and trees, a shed for storage, fencing to delineate the apiary, and a parking area. We will also run water and electricity to meet our needs. The shed will contain bee suits and gloves for visiting groups, along with tools and beekeeping equipment supplies. We will be developing educational signage and gravel paths to accommodate the public with open access. Our group teaches several classes each year for new beekeepers, and this area would be a wonderful addition to those classes. Classes are also presented twice each school year at Tillamook Junior High School and other area schools. These schools would greatly benefit from a field trip to



Visual rendering of apiary and shed

Tillamook Beekeepers Association
Apiary and Garden Learning Center

the apiary. Plans are being developed as we speak.

Several local sponsors have enabled this project to go forward. First is the Port of Tillamook Bay that is providing the land at no cost. We have received grants from the Tillamook Peoples Utility District and the Loren Parks Trust. Fencing materials are being provided by Rosenberg's Builders Supply. Our members are volunteering their time, expertise, and equipment with Rick Stelzig being the project manager and Brad York developing the basic design. Oregon State Beekeepers Association members will be notified when we have a date for the Grand Opening. We cannot wait to show it off!

We will be receiving nucs ordered for our members on April 15. Association meetings have been featuring education about installing nucs, care for over-wintered colonies, and preparation for splitting hives in the spring. We are also preparing for the Headlight Herald Home and Garden Show at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds on April 29 and 30. Dewey Caron will be teaching bee classes on April 29 as part of the Bee Days Celebration at the Home and Garden Show. We will be selecting the winner for our hive raffle. This year's Home and Garden hive celebrates the dairy industry in Tillamook. We will have a 2nd raffle hive on display which will be raffled off at the County Fair in August. This hive will celebrate the Air Museum and WWII Navy Aircraft defending our Stars and Stripes (which is also the theme for the County Fair this year). Just go to the Tillamook Beekeepers Association website to purchase tickets for the next hive being raffled at the Tillamook County Fair in August.

Patsy Weber

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association

The Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association had a well-attended Bee School in March. It was in conjunction with the Columbia County Oregon Beekeepers. This was followed up with a field day and Saturday April 1. The focus was on the beginning beekeepers. We had demonstration of nuc bee transfer, hive inspection, mite load assessment, and spring feeding. It was attended by more than 30 of our newest beekeeping members. A follow-up field day is planned for late May.

Miles Seeley

Umpqua Valley Beekeepers Association

Here in the Umpqua Valley, as is with the rest of the state, we are

hoping for some upcoming warmer weather. Things have been unusually cold and we are hoping for a little bit of sunshine. This can be problematic for the girls, as it is difficult to get out and forage, but from what we have heard they haven't seemed to notice much. If it gets to the mid-40s, they are out and about and bringing in a lot of pollen. Time will tell if this plays a role in this year's bee and swarm year. Speaking of swarms, some hives seem ready to burst and I think as soon as we have a break in the weather we will get our first calls! We started a new swarm text procedure this year and we are excited to see how it goes or if there needs to be some changes made as this year progresses.

We have had a few members who have done some removals already, most of which have been downed trees that contain a hive. Generally that has gone well, and we have at least two more coming in the near future for a house that is set to be torn down. As UVBA has decided to move away from removals due to the liability, we still have a few members who are willing to tackle that feat and report the information to the group. This is also a great opportunity for teaching, and we would love to see some new beekeepers who are interested in removals to join in on the fun.

With the group still gathering speed from all the changes last year, we are happy to report that we officially need to find a new meeting place. We are rapidly outgrowing our space! We had a packed house in April.

We have a list of festivals and shows coming up, to help jump start the season! We are excited to show off our beautiful new signage! At the end of April is the Glide Wildflower Show; if you've never been, it's worth a drive. Shortly after that is our Master Gardener's Plant Sale. We plan to have an observation hive at both, which always draws a crowd. The questions and responses from kids are always the best part. We plan to have our bee school the first part of summer in a bee yard with the fun of some hands-on experience. With quite a few new beekeepers this year, we hope this brings mentors and new beekeepers together. With us wanting to focus on education and teaching, we already have several schools asking about presentations and we hope to be able to tackle that feat.

With growth come changes, and we are sad to announce that we have had our vice president, Charley, and treasurer, Cynthia, move out of state. They will be rehomeing their bees and starting fresh in their new home. We are both sad and excited for them as they embark on their new journey and hope they continue to share their experiences with us.

In our April meeting we were able to find and vote on a new vice president. Ivory LosBanos has stepped up and was voted in. Cynthia was also our webmaster and social media chairperson, and we were lucky to have Marianne Sierocinski take on that role. We are still on the hunt for our new treasurer. Thank you, and we are excited to hear about everyone's activities, after the first burst of swarms arise.

UVBA

Minutes —Continued from page 5

- o Nominations Chair – Jason Rowan
- o Insurance Chair – Harry Vanderpool
- o Linda Zahl reported that some new rules around the use of oxalic acid seem to be coming from the EPA. Note: It is currently illegal to use glycerin and oxalic acid together on towels, though some researchers (Randy Oliver among them) have been given conditional approval to use this formulation.
- o OSBA liability insurance
 - o Affiliated Associations can get a certificate of liability insurance for particular events. Go through Harry Vanderpool to get proof of insurance and be sure to ask for this AT LEAST a week in advance.
 - o OSBA has general liability insurance. There was discussion about increasing our insurance coverage from \$1 million to \$2 million, which should cost about \$400/year more.
 - o We could have a packet of information on insurance to be put on the OSBA website for association presidents to access.
- o Association Presidents' Group
 - o Group is meeting at 9 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month (generally).
 - o Linda Zahl will be sending out the Zoom invitation for the April meeting.
 - o While not all presidents have attended, a stalwart group meets regularly.
 - o It was suggested that a presentation by OSBA's insurance agent would be timely and useful.
- o The Spanish Language Master Beekeeping program received an equipment grant. It is thought that possible uses might be: \$500 for a projector and \$100 for a screen. This money needs to be spent by March, 2024. Once that program has used the equipment, it will be available to OSBA. Jeremy and/or Joe will contact Carolyn Breece about this.
- o Are Associations registered with the state? There is no requirement in the OSBA constitution that they be, but if an association is designated a 501(c)(3) by the IRS, then this needs to be updated annually to remain in force.
- o OSBA membership in AFB – increase to the platinum level? As it's part of the OSBA constitution to support AFB, this level of support would/could be appropriate. OSBA should/could also pay the registration fee for a representative to attend the AFB conference. More discussion to follow.
- o Recognition at the annual conference for someone who's done a lot for OSBA. Give the person recognition and perhaps a certificate. An Awards Committee Chair person would be needed.
- o Internet security – if anyone gets an email (or possibly a phone call) purporting to be an OSBA officer (or Association officer) asking for money – STOP!! Call the person supposedly asking and verify. This is a

scam that's happening more and more often.

Good of the Order

Jeremy reported that OSBA has been penalized by the IRS for not filing a 990EZ in 2019. That penalty has grown with interest being attached. Apparently the IRS wants a letter explaining what happened and asking for the penalty to be waived. It seems quite likely that we will not have to pay the penalty. A letter is being drafted and will be sent.

Next meeting – July 12 at 6 PM over Zoom.

Lorena Corzatt moved and Debby Garman seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:27.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Derkacht



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

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Thank you!

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

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

New memberships are applied through December 2023.



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

We ought to do good to others as simply as a horse runs, or a bee makes honey, or a vine bears grapes season after season without thinking of the grapes it has borne. —*Marcus Aurelius*

The Bee Line

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

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

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

May all be well!

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