



The Bee Line

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Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association



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Image above: Swarm cells: An abundance of colonies all over the state spent our chilly, wet spring building up. They have not hesitated to take advantage of our sudden change in the weather! See swarm study request, page 5.

Following Up: Listed Bumble Bees in the Pacific Northwest —and What Comes Next

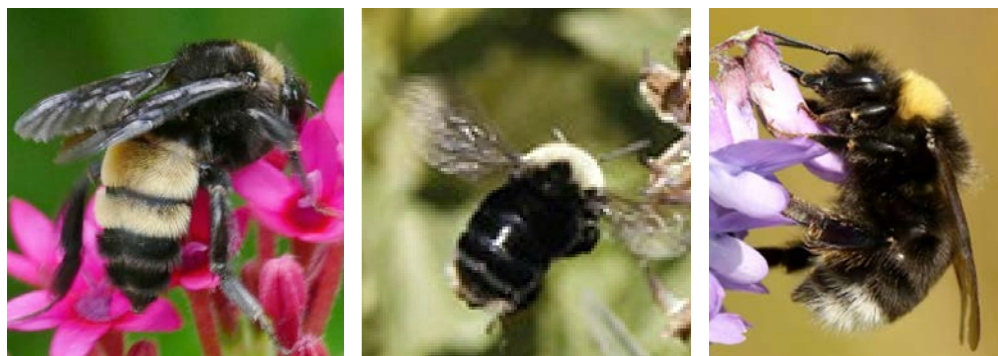
Jeff Everett, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Thank you all for the opportunity to present at the Oregon State Beekeepers Association annual meeting. As I know very little about bee keeping, I learned a great deal and enjoyed visiting with many of you. Joe invited me to summarize the main points from my presentation on bumble bees that are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and what those listings may mean for the bee keeping community. For any species, whether listed or not, successful conservation relies on collaboration. As things change over time, I look forward to staying in touch and working together to promote the well-being of bees.

While the ESA has been in place since 1973 (50-year anniversary in 2023!), and over 1600 species across many taxa have been listed, bumble bees have a very recent relationship with the law. The first bumble bee protected under the ESA was the Rusty-patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*), which was listed as endangered in 2017. Currently, the only other listed bumble bee is Franklin's bumble bee (*Bombus franklini*), which was listed as endangered in 2021. In total, there are only nine listed bee species, the two bumble bees and seven species of Hyleaus or yellow-faced bees in Hawaii.

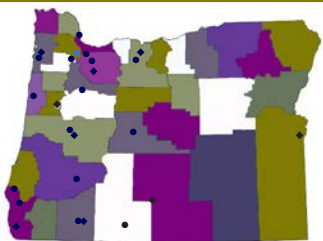
Rusty-patched bumble bee historically occurred in the upper Midwest, Great Lakes, and New England regions, and still has some stronghold populations in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Franklin's bumble bees were only ever found in Jackson, Josephine, and Douglas Counties in Oregon, and Trinity and Siskiyou Counties in northern California, making it the most narrowly endemic bumble bee in North America and possibly the world. Unfortunately, Franklin's bumble bee has not been seen since 2006, though a large part of my work is focused on finding it. Why Franklin's was so limited in its distribution is one of the many things about the species that we don't fully understand.

Several other bumble bees have been petitioned or are being considered for listing under the ESA, including the Western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*), Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*), and the American bumble bee (*Bombus pensylvanicus*). All three of these species are residents of the Pacific Northwest. Interestingly, records indicate that as much as 80% of the prey or host base for Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee are Western bumble bees, so as Westerns have declined across much of their range, correspondingly



Left to right: American bumble bee, Franklin's bumble bee, and Western bumble bee. Credits: American and Franklin's: inaturalist, C. Sheffield, FWS; Franklin's: S. Carpenter; USGS, FWS.

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• 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 Hiram—president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:30 PM, first Monday, Central Point
President: Noah Clipp—noahitus@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

so have Suckley's. Several other bumble bees are species of conservation concern, including Morrison's bumble bee (*Bombus morrisonii*) and Hunt's bumble bee (*Bombus huntii*). The status review and listing process under the ESA takes years and involves opportunities for public comment.

The reasons for the decline of bumble bees are complex and poorly understood. There are also considerable knowledge gaps in our understanding of bumble bee ecology and even some basic life-history characteristics, such as colony site selection and queen bee overwintering. Bumble bees face many of the same threats that Apis – and many other pollinators – face, including pesticides and disease, changes in habitats and forage availability, heat stress, invasive species, and others. Research shows that many of these stressors act together – for example, a bumble bee suffering from a *Nosema* infection has less resistance to the effects of certain pesticides – compounding the problem. Since information is limited, none of our bumble bees can benefit from the decades of applied conservation and knowledge that other species, such as bull trout or Greater sage-grouse, can.

While the challenges are many and widespread, there is a lot of excellent work taking place to advance the science and conservation of bumble bees. Together with our partners and landowners, we are working diligently to learn more about how bumble bees interact with their environment, which in turn

will allow us to apply more meaningful conservation in the right places and at the right times. We are using state-of-the-art genetic tools (specifically, environmental DNA or eDNA) to help find Franklin's bumble bee. As interest in pollinator conservation grows, there is greater participation in citizen science projects such as the Oregon Bee Atlas and the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas projects. These projects are critical to our conservation efforts – thanks again to all of you who support them. Bumble bees also benefit from conservation projects implemented for other species such as the iconic Western monarch butterfly.

From the coast to the Cascades to the High Desert, Oregon is a vast and diverse state. Here, bumble bees are found just about everywhere, and their conservation is something we all have in common. While we are not going to run out of things to do anytime soon, I am encouraged by all of the great work taking place. Thank you again for the opportunity – let's stay in touch.

Note: Jeff Everett, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, presented "Listed Bumble Bees in the Western US, and What Comes Next" during our 2022 Fall Conference. Photos, page 1, are from Western Pollinator Practitioner Webinar, Bumble Bee Update, 5/4/22. Jeff Everett, Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Oregon Fish & Wildlife Office. Source: <https://wafwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Western-Pollinator-Conservation-Webinar.pdf>. For a wealth of guidance and resources on bumble bees and numerous other pollinators, refer to: Oregon Bee Project, <https://www.oregonbeeproject.org/>.

Message from the President

Wow. Spring has finally sprung, the maple is blooming along with the pears, apples, and blueberries, and I even saw crimson clover starting to bloom yesterday (May 9). I have never seen a spring like this, wet and cold and then when the sun comes out everything blooms at once. It will be interesting to see how much honey we can make on a year like this.

It seems like I'm running day and night working and moving bees and trying to get my garden in and taking care of this place. I remember in April I was complaining about the long winter. Commercial beekeepers are working extremely hard to keep up with the demand for bees to go into pollination, makes for many sleepless nights.

Let's not forget, 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. The festivities begin at 10:30 AM and will finish up around 4 PM. It's a potluck. Willamette Mission State Park is 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. Anyone who would like to help with the planning for this event please feel free to contact me.

Joe Maresh

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Opportunity to Understand Honey Bee Swarm Biology Via Participatory Research / Citizen Science

Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab

Honey bee swarms are fascinating. Have you ever wondered what percentage of worker bees leave the parental hive during a swarm? You have probably read in bee books or a couple of journal articles that about 50% of the worker bees will swarm along with the old queen to establish a new nest. One study published in 2012 (Rangel and Seeley, *Insectes Sociaux* 59, 453–462), suggests that 75% of worker bees leave in a swarm. The percentage of worker bees leaving in a swarm could vary depending on the time of the year (April, May, June, or July) and a few other factors. We (OSU Honey Bee Lab) are interested in exploring this interesting and not-so-well-understood aspect of swarm biology with the help of citizen scientists (our passionate beekeepers) by examining as many swarms as possible. If you would like to be a part of this research this year, then please read the study process below.

Study Process / Method: If you witness a low-hanging swarm that can be easily accessed and captured without any risk / hazard, and you also know for sure the source of that swarm (parental hive), then you can be a part of this study. Once the swarm is settled on a branch or other substrate, that swarm needs to be hived carefully in a single-story hive with eight or ten frames (frames can be empty or with some honey and pollen). Then the worker bee population should be estimated in both the captured swarm (in the single-story hive) and the parental hive (original hive that swarmed). Coverage of frames with bees in both colonies needs to be estimated ideally within 24 hours (best) and latest within 72 hours and at a time of day when bees are not flying (mornings, evenings). We can help you estimate the worker population on the frames by providing step-by-step instructions. Please call us (Ramesh Sagili: (979) 739-9347, (541) 737-5460, or e-mail: ramesh.sagili@oregonstate.edu; Heike Williams: (541) 740-7877) if you happen to successfully capture a swarm and know the parental hive from which the swarm was issued.

Appreciate your help in increasing the body of knowledge regarding swarming.

A Favorite Honey Bee Plant: June

Glen Andresen, glen@bridgetownbees.com

Scientific name: *Ilex crenata* 'Convexa'

Common name: Japanese holly (I once heard it referred to as "finger hat" due to the leaves' convex shape)

Portland-area bloom time: May, June, July

I stumbled (well, not literally) onto this tiny-bloomed plant, *Ilex crenata* 'Convexa', when, quite a few years ago now, I tended to a swarm call at a house not even a half-mile from mine. Upon arrival, I looked and looked for the swarm, but couldn't spot it. Then the homeowner came to the door and said something to the effect, "Can't you hear it?" Well, yes, I could hear honey bees, but there was no swarm. The homeowner had mistaken all that buzzing for a swarm. To be sure, I was disappointed, but was delighted to be introduced to this plant. With its tiny, tiny blooms (as you can see in the photo, the flower is only about twice the size of the bee's head) it's not a very showy plant. But it is evergreen and takes well to pruning, does well in full sun to partial shade, and tolerates a wide range of soil types, from moist to dry. I think it would make an excellent substitute for boxwood or privet hedges, though I haven't made the



Ilex crenata 'Convex' blooms aren't very large, but there are lots of them! time or effort to replace mine.

To make sure there is no confusion, *Ilex crenata* is not to be confused with the Portland Nuisance Plants List item *Ilex aquafolium* (known everywhere as English holly).

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Sharing Love of Beekeeping at Ag Fest

Bonnie King, OSBA Activities Chair

For 36 years, Oregon Ag Fest has gathered “all things agricultural” in one place for an amazing educational and entertaining day for all who participate. Honey bees are a mandatory piece of that big story. Since nearly the beginning, our booth at Ag Fest has been a regular event for OSBA, and every year it seems to be even more fun than the last. Ag Fest provides the backdrops for the booths, and this year they gave us a colorful “beekeeping” theme that was a great surprise and will remain for the coming years.

“Find the Queen” was the mantra of the day, and at times it seemed there was no end to the line of kids and adults waiting for their turn in front of the observation hive. The kids usually could spot her first, which we like to attribute to their “young eyes”!

Many of our visitors are future Oregon beekeepers. We invited people to upcoming meetings, and referred others to the OSBA for information. It is always wonderful to see such appreciation and admiration for the honey bee.

The numerous things to see and do at Ag Fest are not to be underrated. Farm animals filled the barns, from cows and horses to llamas and rabbits, they could touch them all. There were pony rides, tractor rides, firetrucks, and scores of activities for kids, and plenty of great things to eat.

In our building, “Ag Country,” they could plant flowers and

vegetables or make their own “dirt baby.” Pollination was a theme for us as well as some around us. Baby chicks and ducks were very popular, of course, but nothing was as awesome to those kids as our hive of bees. All of this was great fodder for conversation about honey bees in agriculture. Just as honey bees are social and cooperative, so were our visitors, full of interest and questions.

The hours in our booth went fast for those who took a shift. Many thanks to our volunteers: Anthony Shannon-Thorn, Diane Carrico + kids, Melissa Botten, Muffy Roy, Rick Olson, Becca Fain, Pam Burke, Steve Niles, David Martinez & Jeremy Mitchell.

We gave away 2,000 honey stix to the enthusiastic crowd, and even ran out before it was all over. Thanks to Glenn Peters at Nature’s Kick Honey Stix for their donation. Glenn has generously offered a larger donation for next year, and also for the Oregon State Fair. Ag Fest was a great success. Thank you again to all who participated. Educating others of all the gifts honey bees give to us humans is a great start in changing the world for the better, one little flower at a time.

Note: For very many of the years Bonnie references here, the members of Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association coordinated and managed the bee booth during Ag Fest. Thanks, everyone!!



The next OSBA event is the summer picnic July 8, and then please join us at the 2023 Oregon State Fair in August. You can sign up for a shift for yourself or for your association at: 2023 State Fair OSBA Volunteer Sign-Up. Prepare for a fantastic time!



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Keeping Bees in June

Jan Lohman

June AGAIN . . . a very important beekeeping month.

To follow up on my 2021 “Keeping Bees in June” article, I can now confirm that every year is indeed an exception and we can throw out all previous assumptions. Yes, 2021 was cold and windy in spring, 2022 was even colder, wetter, and windier, and 2023 was a record breaker for hail and snow and rain in the almonds in California and in Hermiston. Virgin queens must be totally frustrated!

June is the time to evaluate your hives. If you have not already requeened your hives, check out the queen’s pattern and while you are at it look at the pollen and nectar stores to be sure that your hives are set up for summer work. Commercial beekeepers find the time to requeen whenever it works into their schedule each year, but for hobby beekeepers it is important to evaluate your queen each time that you check your hives and when you notice supersedure cells, damaged queens (queens with a bad leg), or spotty brood or poor performance, it is time to retire that queen and get some fresh energy into the hive.

If your hive has swarm cells, there are a few things that you can do to mitigate the colony’s behavior. It does not always work, but worth the time. If the queen is still laying eggs, but also throwing swarm cells, you can knock off the cells that are found, usually on the bottom of your frames in the top box, and pull out a few frames of brood (without pulling the queen) to give her more room. You can use that brood to build a nuc to have available when needed, with either a purchased queen or let the bees build their own queen by having young eggs on the frames of brood that you pull, or pull a frame with queen cells already on the frame. While you are knocking off swarm

cells, you can also reverse the two boxes so that she is less crowded or add a honey super.

Remember, if your hive has swarmed, it is important to give the hive enough time to replace her. If you add a mated queen, leave the hive alone for 10 days before checking to be sure she has taken. If you are letting the hive do their own replacement, you should wait 30 days before checking for eggs.

In parts of Oregon there will be honey flows beginning. Do you plan to use an excluder? Do you see white wax on your hive’s top bars? If so, the hive is telling you that it is show time! For bee hives to make excess honey they need robust populations of bees. You should be working to create these robust colonies from early spring to get them prepared.

Record keeping is so important, but so often missed . . . you can write on your hive with a lumber crayon, you can use a computer program or your cell phone or use a regular notebook. Important information to gather includes temperatures when you work your bees, bloom phenology, queen observed, eggs observed, feeding needed, and what to do on your next visit.

Finally you need to always be prepared for Varroa. It is critical that you know your Varroa levels, especially in the summer, and have a plan in place for how to treat when it is time. Be proactive about selecting an approved treatment that you and your bees can live with. For treatment information, please check out Varroa Management Decision Tool at: <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroatool/>.

I forgot to say that summer is near . . . queens will be mated . . . and I hope that you have an amazing beekeeping year.

Late Spring Buildup

Jeremy Mitchell

The average rainfall amount in Salem for the month of April is 3.12 inches which is, on average, declining each year since records began in the early 1900s. This year Salem received 5.19 inches of rainfall compared to last year’s 5.36 inches in the month of April. The record rainfall total for April in Salem was 7.68 inches set in 1937*!

We saw low temperatures near freezing late in April and above average rainfall, which made the spring buildup of colonies and nuc production difficult for many beekeepers across the Pacific Northwest. Despite feeding sugar syrups and pollen substitutes, the queens know better than to build up too much brood. The bees are pretty good at adjusting their brood rearing based on the local weather conditions. Nuc producers reported 1-3 week delays due to poor brood buildup in the colonies. The nice weather in May really turned things around for beekeepers in the Willamette Valley. Temperatures were in the 80s and 90s resulting in a quick buildup of brood during the late bigleaf

maple nectar flow. When it comes to bees, the weather, and spring buildup, I often think about the famous line from Forest Gump, “Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re going to get.” Seasoned beekeepers often take note of spring weather patterns and compare them to years past. This can make all the difference in making the right decisions when it comes to deciding when and what to feed, and whether to make splits in your colonies in the spring.

Hopefully you all have a honey super (or two) on now. Meadowfoam should be in bloom around the time of this printing, and the wild blackberries will be soon to follow, if not already in bloom. Commercial beekeepers have reported an increased number of acres of meadowfoam this year due to high input costs for other crops. Fertilizer and spray costs are up considerably this year, and meadowfoam requires much less compared to crops such as grass seed. My fingers are crossed for good weather and a large meadowfoam honey crop this year!

*<https://www.weather.gov/media/pqr/climate/ClimateBookSalem/pg66.pdf>

BEEKEEPER EVENTS

— 2023 —

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!)

June 21: **2023 Summer Equinox!**

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 MA. Information: easternapiculture.org/conference/eas-2023/.

August 25–September 4: **Oregon State Fair.** Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center. Salem. Information (when available): <https://oregonstatefair.org/#>. The sign-up sheet for staffing the booth at the fair is open! To participate, go to: State Fair OSBA Volunteer Sign-Up,

linked here and at: <https://orsba.org/> (bottom of page).

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/2023conference>.

This live, in-person conference, hosted the by Western Apiculture Society in Calgary, Canada, on September 29, 30 & October 1 will have an Oregon flavor with both Dewey Caron and Andony Melathopoulos on the program. Other speakers will include Canadians Medhat Nasr, Olav Ruepuell, Julia Commons, Geoff Wilson, and Andrew Munn along with Juliana Rangel from Texas, Melanie Kirby of New Mexico, and others. The meeting's theme is "Northern Lights Beekeeping." Held at the Grey Eagle Resort and Casino, the conference will include on-site opportunities to learn about and inspect colonies owned by the native peoples and an off-site tour of local honey bee operations. Register and reserve hotel at: <https://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/2023>, discounted registration until August 28. For more information, contact WAS Member-at-Large Dewey Caron (carond@oregonstate.edu) or WAS Oregon representative Nelda Murri (nmurri@gmail.com), who keeps about 30 long and tall hives way out east in Lostine, Wallowa County.

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 (as it becomes available): <https://orsba.org/osba-fall-conference/>.

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

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

NEWSLETTER BOO-BOO

The newsletter has long been submitted with placeholders before final edits and so forth in order to get an early proof for overall content. This step has been "rushed" to help ensure the newsletter is out in time for reasonable delivery. This process has worked generally well for close to 20 years, but is not perfect. In May, the draft version rather than the final landed in mailboxes, a result of recent changes in printer personnel. I have sent an email to members, and the printer is mailing copies of the correct version to members with no email address. Please refer to the online version for that issue: <https://orsba.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/MAY-2023-bee-line-reduced.pdf>.



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REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representative

Southwestern Oregon

Southern Oregon bees will be seeing their first major nectar flow with sustained warm temperatures arriving. It looks to be a flow of . . . well . . . everything? Earlier cool and wet conditions held bloom back by a month. Bees have, likewise, been slower to progress. Queen breeding and nucleus colony production is, correspondingly, lagging by about a month. Beekeepers managing for swarming have found good brood nest size, but little stored honey, when making splits. Modest honey reserves have left plenty of room for massive brood nests, fueled by the intermittent nectar flows (or emergency syrup feeding) of the previous month. Honey supers are now being added, anticipating abundant floral bloom for hives with massive forager populations.

Andrew Watson

Regional Associations

Central Oregon Beekeepers Association

As with the rest of the state, we're now finally pretty sure of a frost-free summer season. Spring was long, cold, and wet (at least for us). We're also interested in changes to the current distribution of irrigation water and hoping it is beneficial for our local farmers throughout the growing season, also including the unexpectedly heavy snow levels. The side effect of this wet, cool spring is that the fire danger may not be attenuated, but just postponed. We hope the fire season isn't too bad for everyone.

Anecdotally our members seem to have had quite heavy losses during the last winter. There were a lot of dead outs with plenty of food and dead bees, but very little dead brood, which kind of hints towards high mite counts during the raising of the winter bees, and perhaps loss of queens. This was especially frustrating for our first-year beekeepers. We'll be discussing this in preparation for next winter.

This summer, in addition to or in lieu of our normal meetings, we are planning 2 field days, hopefully with quite a bit of "hands-on" experiences. We will also be reinstating our photo contest, post COVID. Our usual meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, starting at 6 PM at The Environmental Center in Bend. You are invited.

Allen Engle

Coos Beekeepers Association

Maple and myrtle trees are providing pollen as our coastal bees start serious foraging in the warmer weather. Our two training hives were bursting at the seams and numerous queen cells were discovered, so the decision was made to split them. Last Saturday, eight members took part in the event as more experienced beekeepers gave advice such as which frames to move and how to arrange frames in the new hives. It was a great



learning opportunity. Afterward, more folks showed up to have a "Rebuild the Apiary" work party where two sides were finished.

At our last meeting, Dr. Caron made the trek to the coast to speak where he made quite an impression on members with his knowledge. New information about drones and mites gave us a lot to think about.

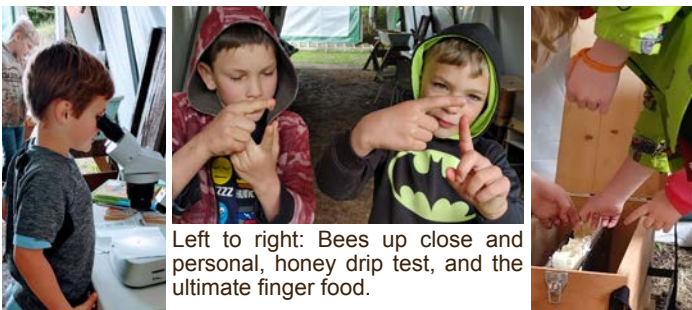
Ann Marineau

Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association

The OSCBA, based in Gold Beach, the seat of Curry County, has been a bit spoiled by having a good notification communication program between the road departments and the beekeepers regarding the herbicide spraying to clear the drainage ditches. The manager of the county road department doing such a good job of keeping us informed is now a member, since taking up beekeeping when he retired several years ago. Another of our members is the county treasurer and is actively promoting coordination between agencies to communicate widely the spraying schedule notification. The first week of May was our first experience of this year. All the bees got locked in for the gray, misty morning as the sprayer went by, but in the afternoon the bees were so rowdy about wanting to be in the sun and not wanting to comply. There is an effort to establish a statewide program. The concept seems to be an efficient funneling process that connects the output messages from the various departments in charge of spraying into a single outlet that then connects to the input messages to the parties of interest, as the beekeepers.

Bee Day was on the 5th of May at the Pistol River Mushroom Farm, hosted by beekeeper Mike Hewgill along with wife Cat and daughter Elizabeth, featuring interactive discussion of the interesting life of honey bees facilitated by Mureen Walker while small groups visited Mike's homemade top bar hive to see the honey bees through a full length window on the west side and watch them work on the seven honey combs that they had just newly completed since moving into about three weeks prior. Mike moved the follow board in his TBH back to the 3/4 position, since the front half is getting built up quickly. He used a half-sized top bar comb full of honey to feed his bees during hiving. They covered it with their entire population until they got the first comb built about halfway forward from that. Then they all moved forward and quickly produced additional combs.

Honey was the highlight of the day for the local group known as Homeschooler's Gone Rogue, when Mike brought out a fully loaded top bar of honey comb, attracting a swarm of little hands until he secured the tasty treat into a frame feeder and left it for the day, drawing many back into the tent which lodged all of the beekeeping equipment on display, including Langstroth hive awaiting nuc and the stereo microscope with immobile honey bees to examine, especially the eyes! The



Left to right: Bees up close and personal, honey drip test, and the ultimate finger food.

predicted day of rain held off until it was time to disperse.

Packages of bees were delivered to the local area, both sides of the border, mid April by Russ and Babette Rose, and nucs are expected to be delivered to the area about the third week of May. Maarty Van Otterloo reported that, by the second week of May, he has already had to put the second brood box on top as the bees were wanting to go up, as evidenced by the honeycomb within the spacer between the inner cover and the tops of the frames. The spacer was used to accommodate the queen cage and the protein patty during hiving, and will continue to be used for ventilation.

Mureen Walker

Portland Metro Beekeepers Association

Spring arrived late to the Portland area with continued rain, cooler temperatures amidst scattered sunshine in late April and early May for foraging. More time in the apiary and garden reminds us of the many attractions to Oregon with a background of greenery now exploding with color. Honey bees and other pollinators frequent a variety of trees and flowers in bloom; however, everything appears to be about 2–3 weeks late by my observation. In our apiary, bigleaf maple, dogwood, cherry, and the start of apple blossoms are noted. Spanish bluebell explosion, Japanese andromeda, rosemary, and flowering currant seem to be the favorites. Members report honey bees taking less syrup now that natural resources are available. One of our goals at this time is to stimulate colony growth for the work force population to peak at a time of the main honey flow, not before, and avoid swarming. Typically, this is from mid-May to mid-June in the Willamette Valley. Members are making splits and other steps to mitigate the likelihood of swarming. Our swarm hotline has been very active with the good



fortune and collection of free bees by members. June is the time to evaluate your queens and make sure your colonies are “queen right” during your hive inspections. Our queen rearing

class was hugely successful, and participants will be picking up their queen cells mid-May. The didactic lecture was recorded for members with anticipation of future hands-on sessions next year.

Our April speaker Dewey Caron is our bedrock in beekeeping,

a treasure of knowledge and such an enjoyable presenter. He reviewed his seasonal management strategies of beekeeping. Understanding and applying bee biology with strategies divided into winter, spring, summer, and fall seasons is all practical information. He reminds us of the importance of spring mite management as the “mites are there” with reference to: <https://beeinformed.org/2023/03/01/the-importance-of-spring-mite-loads/>. We anticipate our association results from the PNW bee survey on winter losses at our next meeting and are honored he will be attending our Bee Day. Our upcoming May lecture is by Mandy Shaw, a perfectly timed presentation on one of her favorite topics, “Swarming”!

The first weekend in May, PMBA’s educational booth at the Spring Garden Fair was very active. The observation hive was the star per-



former with inquisitive minds of all ages. An observation hive has been compared to a fish tank, giving the observer an opportunity to understand the inner workings of this astonishing super-organism. Adults and children of all ages stopped by to see honey bees in action, some fortunate enough to see the queen lay an egg, various stages of bee metamorphosis, cleaning, feeding, and several children noted “bees carrying other bees” which led to the conversation of the important role these insects play in their short six weeks of life.

Our Bee Day is finally here, the second weekend of May as well as our last nucleus colony distribution, which has been delayed due to weather. We anticipate sunshine, enthusiastic attendees, and knowledgeable beekeeping volunteers to create lasting memories for many first-time beekeepers. The accumulation of donations for our raffle sales continues to be stunning and greatly valued. Lastly, PMBA will start “Saturdays in the Apiary” in June through August. Our first gathering is a dedicated “women in beekeeping” event at Cindy Geffel’s apiary. Enjoy your spring and your bees!

Sandi Collis

Portland Urban Beekeepers Association

Up here in Portland, it’s been a depressingly slow start to the swarm season. One early day in May, PUB members were on their way to work at the association apiary and were commenting on the lack of swarms. Just then, they passed by fellow PUB member collecting a swarm at an intersection in the St. John’s neighborhood! Right place at the right time . . . one of the lucky ones who have collected this early. Hopefully by the time you’re reading this, we’ll be tired of all the swarm calls.

Cornflowers and poppies abound right now as well as pears and cherry trees. It’s been cool but not quite as wet as last year so it looks like we’ll have sun before July this year, thankfully. One of my hives overwintered quite well. Insulation on top with no venting has been very successful the past few years. The

other hive overwintered, but by early April only a small cluster remained as the queen wasn't laying anymore. I was lucky to find an unclaimed nuc in mid-April and am back in business.

We are excited to have been selected by Oak Union Brewing to be the recipient of a small percentage of sales of their new beer Spectral Mist, which was released in time for World Bee Day (May 20). Oak Union is a new Portland-based brewery and each beer they release benefits different environmental and community programs. Portland Urban Beekeepers is hoping to host one of its Gather & Blather meet-ups at a bar featuring Spectral Mist – so be sure to keep an eye out for an advertisement to that event! Gather & Blathers are open to the public and not limited to PUB members. It's been a great way to drive association engagement, teach people about what beekeeping is about before they dive in, and meet new people. Wishing all the best to everyone as our season gets underway!

Jessica Anderson

Tillamook Beekeepers Association

The Tillamook Beekeepers Association was a huge part of the Headlight Herald Home and Garden Show at the Tillamook Fairgrounds on April 29 and 30. The newspaper advertised the show and Bee Days. Dewey Caron was kind enough to present three classes as part of our program. We had an observation hive at our booth that was hugely popular. Crafts and honey were also sold, and people could register for the beginning beekeepers' class on May 6. Raffle tickets were sold for our first raffle hive of the year, and a drawing was held on the 30th. Raffle tickets are now available on the Tillamook Beekeepers website for our second hive raffle of the year. The theme of this hive is patriotic, red, white, and blue, and the lid is a model of the famous Tillamook Blimp Hangar. The winner will be drawn at the Tillamook County Fair in August.

The TBA Apiary and Learning Garden is moving along nicely. The gravel parking lot is in as well as an arbor and fencing to



surround the hive area and a storage shed. Water and electric lines are going in, and twelve trees will be planted in the month of May. The association hives were moved to the apiary in early May, giving the queen rearing team better access, and we will slowly move bees into new colorful boxes. The plan is to eventually include several types of hives as a teaching tool. Signage is being designed to direct the public to this facility and to educate on site.

Patsy Weber

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association

At our April meeting we had a wonderful presentation by Dr.

Dewey Caron on the management of the spring bee population. Dr. Caron included in his presentation information on new strategies on the management of the Varroa mite population in the late winter and early spring.

Speaking of spring, the volatile wet weather has presented challenges for us beekeepers. For one, we had our latest nuc pick-up April 29. We are looking forward to a better May and June hoping for a good nectar flow.

Our next field day event is May 20, which will focus on a follow up to the April 1 event. All the volunteers working on the field day are involved in all levels of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. We are blessed to have such a wonderful education program for us hobby beekeepers.

Many of our experienced beekeepers are looking forward to the opportunity to retrieve swarms, which seems to be a bit late this year.

Miles Seeley

Umpqua Valley Beekeepers Association

We are quite literally bouncing into spring here in the Umpqua Valley! As the longer days soothe the bite of lingering winter temperatures, we find ourselves immersed with an unending list of tasks that will be cast aside because, as beekeepers, we are excited to crack into those hives and inspect the health of our apiary!

Our Swarm Chasers are on high alert, awaiting a text from our broadcast system. I am happy to report, we have several success stories throughout the organization, with only a few where we've been ghosted by those pesky bees! We are encouraging teamwork on these responses, because the bond that occurs during a swarm capture is stronger than propolis!

We have attended three events so far and attracted more members. We represented a table alongside the Master Gardeners and Umpqua Watersheds at the Umpqua Community College Earth Day Event. We had a lot of traffic at the Glide Wildflower Show and the Master Gardeners Plant Expo. Observation hives were present at the last two events with a Drone Petting and Handling activity. The kids absolutely loved it!!!

Our first Beeks Academy was a success. We had a hands-on Hive Split Workshop. All levels of experience were engaged in the experience, led by Ivory LosBanos and Kim Kinney. We have some presentations scheduled with some of the local schools toward the end of the month as well.

I would like to report that we have grown out of our current meeting place! Unofficially, we are going to move to the OSU Extension Office Auditorium. We have recently attracted an Extension Office employee to our group who is happy to facilitate that for us.

We have officially adopted the Butterfly Garden at Stewart Park in Roseburg! We have had one beautifying event so far. We are working on scheduling more and are excited to be working with the city on future events and workshops. *Adrian Aramburu*



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INGREDIENTS

- 1 - avocado
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- 2 T - red wine vinegar
- 2 T - honey
- 2 T - extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup - water
- 1/4 cup - cilantro, chopped



Combine all ingredients together in a blender until smooth.

The versatility of this dressing is endless. It can be used in salads, meats, tacos, or whole grains.

From: The National Honey Board: <https://honey.com/recipes>.

Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education

In addition to our current campaign to raise funds for the OSU Honey Bee Lab (www.gofundme.com/f/100year-anniversary-help-us-save-the-bees-event) is OSBA's Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education.

Making your check out only as described ensures that your donation is correctly applied to the appropriate Endowment and not to any other program.

For questions regarding details of the fund or how to donate, please contact Jan Lohman, Chair of the Grants and Foundations Committee, at 541.567.3209; 541.980.0304.

To Donate to the Fund

- ❖ Make your check out to: The OSU Foundation
- ❖ On the memo line, take care to write: The Northwest Apiculture Fund for Honey Bee Research, Extension, and Education
- ❖ Write a cover letter explaining your donation and repeating the name of the fund on the memo line.
- ❖ Mail to: Oregon State University Foundation at 4238 SW Research Way, Corvallis OR 97333



Oregon State Beekeepers Association Membership Form

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

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

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

Date: _____ New Member Membership Renewal

First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____

Company name: _____

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

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number: _____ e-mail address: _____

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

Do not include contact information

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

Local group, if member: _____

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

Voluntary contribution(s):

General Fund \$ _____

Research Fund \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Note: To renew or join online, please visit:
orsba.org/membership

Thank you!

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

Renewals are welcome at any time, as are new members.
New memberships after August 31 are applied through December 2024.



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

Summer is a promissory note signed in June,
its long days spent and gone before you know it, and due to be repaid next January.

—Hal Borland

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 **July 2023** issue. The deadline for submitting copy is **June 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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