



# The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

Volume 48

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July 2023



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### OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

orsba.org

orsbawebmaster@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/

Oregon-State-Beekeepers-  
Association-106259011502343

### OREGON MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM

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

**Image above:** The season that most demonstrates (to us) the brilliance of plants is upon us—sending invitations to pollinators and people alike!

## Upcoming OSBA Events

### Summer Potluck

#### Message from the President

Hi, All. Summer is here and it is a busy one—the blackberries are blooming, the bees are working hard, and my honey supers are starting to get full. Now I'm going to have to think about extracting honey already, so that I can take bees to the mountains for a fireweed honey crop. Trying to find a place to take bees in the mountains is not as easy as it used to be.

Please plan to attend the OSBA picnic on July 8 at Willamette Mission State Park, Lake B picnic shelter. This is a potluck, and the whole family is invited. Please let me know by email (joemaresh@bctonline.com) if you plan to attend. The OSBA will be supplying hamburgers, hot dogs, paper plates, cups, and eating utensils. The festivities will begin at 10:30 AM, plan to start eating at NOON, and we will finish around 4 PM.



Willamette Mission State Park is easy to find. It is near the town of Gervis, 8 miles north of Salem and only minutes from I-5. Please note that there is a \$5 day use parking fee in the park. I hope to see you all there.

*Joe Maresh*

### Oregon State Fair

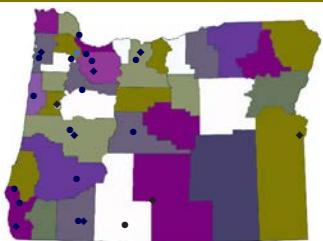
In no time, the Oregon State Fair, which takes place August 25–September 4 this year at the Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center, will be opening the gates. Fair days provide ample opportunities to enjoy events, enter competitions, and share the world of bees with the public! The sign-up sheet for staffing this year's booth at the fair is at: State Fair OSBA Volunteer Sign-Up, linked **here** and at: <https://orsba.org/> (bottom of web page).

### Fall Conference

#### Tentative Agenda & Mail-In Registration

Planning for this year's event to take place October 27–29 continues, and we now have a tentative agenda that includes presenters and on-site events as well as mail-in registration (see pages 4–5). Although guidelines are not yet available, the conference agenda once again features auctions (next section) and a honey show. Along with what may be contributed for the auction, take care to set some of some of your colony's/colonies' priceless honey aside as extractions begin! The link for on-site lodging is

## OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



### OSBA OFFICERS

#### President

Joe Maresh—503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com

#### Vice President

Jeremy Mitchell—503.399.8409; osba.vice.president@gmail.com

#### Secretary

Barbara Derkacht—503.631.3063; bderkacht@yahoo.com

#### Treasurer

Becca Fain—541.997.3792; rfain18@gmail.com

#### Past President

John Jacob—541.582.2337; oldsolbees@gmail.com

### ♦ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### North Coast

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#### South Coast

Mureen Walker—541.373.7997; mureen98@gmail.com

#### Columbia Basin

Bill Edwards—541.354.2223; bfamily@live.com

#### Eastern Oregon

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Tom Cinquini—503.547.5386; tomcinquini@gmail.com

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

#### Southwestern Oregon

Andrew Watson—boradabeedoc@gmail.com

#### North Willamette Valley

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 Hiram—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

here as well as at: <https://orsba.org/2023-meals-lodging/>. Additional details and updates will be posted at <https://orsba.org/> as they become available.

## Conference Auction

*Help Us Raise Funds for Oregon State University Bee Research by Making the 2023 Conference Auction a Screaming Success!*

It's that time of year again when we begin to organize the Fall Conference, and we need your help. We would like to request that each association in the state help us to make the annual auction a success by putting together two auction packages. We are looking for items that will stimulate bidders, such as vacation packages, special experiences (fishing trips, flights, etc.), gift items, and beekeeping experiences (hands-on queen rearing, a day in the life of a commercial beekeeper, etc.). Maybe you have a member with a vacation home or a fishing boat who would be willing to donate to the auction. Or maybe a member has a business connection that could result in a gift item that would work well in the auction. How about the opportunity to spend the day with one of your members with expertise in queen rearing to learn the art of grafting or the chance to follow one of your commercial beekeepers for a day

to see what is involved in the business side of beekeeping? Be as creative as you like. All items are welcome. Please let me know at [rfain18@gmail.com](mailto:rfain18@gmail.com), (541) 997-3792, what you come up with. *Becca Fain*, 2023 Auction Chair

## 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.

**Bee Hives.** Top Bar, Layens, and Long Lang style. Hand made with western red cedar. [bodacious-creations.com](http://bodacious-creations.com), (541) 863-9414. Robert Baune. You pick up or we deliver (Oregon only).

## A Favorite Honey Bee Plant: July

*Glen Andresen, [glen@bridgetownbees.com](mailto:glen@bridgetownbees.com)*

Scientific name: *Tilia tomentosa* 'Sterling'

Common name: Sterling Silver

Portland-area bloom time: June, July

Twenty years ago, in 2003, my wife and I traveled to Berlin, Germany. When she was in college, she spent a year studying in Heidelberg. While there, she also played in an orchestra and became good friends with her music-stand partner, a native German student (in an orchestra, you see, violin players share a music stand). It was with him that we visited (and stayed with) in Berlin. Before we left Oregon, my wife (still able to read, write, and speak German pretty well) arranged for us to meet with a beekeeper. It's a long story of how that happened, but she first wrote to a German beekeeping group... While in Berlin, we met up with a Berlin beekeeper. What good fortune. Helmut and his wife picked us up at 10:00 in the morning and dropped us off at 9:00 in the evening. In between, we visited four apiaries (at one of them, one of the beekeepers even had a book of beekeeping terms in six or seven languages!), shared a couple of meals, and, among others, heard stories of how they fared during the Berlin Airlift after WWII. It was a wonderful day.

One area we visited was the boulevard called Unter den Linden, which runs from the City Palace to Brandenburg Gate. It takes its name from the linden trees that line the boulevard. Helmut stressed that the beekeepers in the

area were keen to remove any existing supers by June 12 and add new ones to capture the linden nectar flow. It's a great-tasting honey, and it has greater value to the Berlin beekeepers than any other honey.



Here in old NE Portland, there must be hundreds of lindens that dot the streets. I've discovered that not all species are as attractive to honey bees, but one that is is the linden cultivar known as 'Sterling.' And it is, I think, the last-blooming linden in my neighborhood. You'll know you're in linden territory when your nose is bequeathed with its sweet, intoxicating scent!

## Oregon State Beekeepers Association 2023 Fall Conference Registration Form

October 27, 28 & 29, 2023

Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center | Bend, Oregon

*Please fill out clearly and completely!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Family Members Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*email: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending in person: \_\_\_\_\_ Attending online: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Conference programs will be mailed to online participants. Should we need to go virtual, they will be mailed to everyone. Email addresses are required for providing online access to conference proceedings, available to all registrants until December 31, 2023.

Event			Cost
Friday Night Hospitality Room			Complimentary
Conference <sup>1,4</sup>	Online Member Individual - \$100		
	Online Nonmember - \$140		
	In-Person Member Individual - \$150		\$
	In-Person Nonmember Individual - \$190		
	In-Person Member Family - \$180		
	In-Person Nonmember Family - \$220		
Encaustic Painting (Limit: 30) <sup>2</sup>	\$20 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Beekeeping Basics (Limit: 40)	No Additional Cost	Number Attending: _____	\$
Saturday Luncheon	\$26 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Saturday Banquet	\$55 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Sunday Luncheon	\$26 per Person	Number Attending: _____	\$
Note: Please indicate any special dietary needs, including vegetarian: _____			
Research Donation <sup>3</sup>			\$
Annual OSBA Dues <sup>4</sup>	\$40 per Person	Number: _____	\$
<b>TOTAL<sup>5, 6</sup></b>			<b>\$</b>

1) Attendees qualify for preregistration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before September 27, 2023. No refunds after October 13, 2023. Late online registration and on-site registration rates are: Conference, \$190.00; Conference Family, \$220.00; Online, \$140.

2) Children attending the workshop must be accompanied by an adult.

3) The Oregon State Beekeepers Association is classified as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Research donations made out to the OSBA may be deductible; please consult your accountant.

4) Please include completed membership form(s). Nonmember conference price includes a complimentary OSBA membership for 2024.

5) Checks payable to OSBA; mail with completed registration form, **postmarked no later than October 14**, to: **Oregon State Beekeepers Association, 2023 Fall Conference, 89135 Spindrift Way, Florence OR 97439.**

6) Hotel reservations are not included. Special rates are available at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes. See: orsba.org.

## 2023 Fall Conference Tentative Agenda

### Friday, October 27

1:00–5:30 PM **Registration, Submit Auction Items, Submit Honey Show Entries, Submit Photo Entries, Exhibitor Move-In** (Conference Center, Lobby)

1:30–4:15 PM **Beekeeping Basics** (Location TBD)  
Dewey Caron, University of Delaware, Emeritus

2:00–4:00 PM **Oregon Master Beekeeper Institute** (Location TBD)

**Breakout Session: Oregon Master Beekeeper Program Students and Mentors**

Jen Larsen, Oregon Master Beekeeper Program Coordinator

1. **Book Reading: *The Music of Bees***

Eileen Garvin, Master Beekeeper Certified Apprentice

2. **Spotlight on Central Oregon Participants**

4:30–6:00 PM **OSBA Executive Committee Meeting** (Location TBD)

7:00–9:00 PM **Evening Social** (Deschutes North & South, \*inside hotel)

### Saturday, October 28

7:00–10:00 AM **Exhibitor Move-In**

7:00 AM–5:00 PM **Registration, Submit Auction Items, Submit Honey Show Entries** (Conference Center, Lobby)

8:00–8:10 AM **Welcome & Announcements** (Location TBD)  
Joe Maresh & Jeremy Mitchell, OSBA

8:15–9:15 AM **Improving Honey Bee Health to Ensure Sustainable Blueberry Pollination** (Location TBD)  
Sarah Wood, University of Saskatchewan

9:20–10:00 AM **The BeeMD** (Location TBD)  
Dewey Caron, University of Delaware

10:00 AM–6:00 PM **Tradeshow Open** (Conference Center, Lobby)

10:00–10:30 AM **Group Break in Tradeshow**  
Sponsored by: TBD

10:30–11:30 AM **Ensuring Healthy Pollinators for Crop Production** (Location TBD)  
Diana Cox-Foster USDA ARS, Logan, Utah

11:30 AM **Donations to OSU Honey Bee Lab**

12:00–1:30 PM **Luncheon\*** (Conference Center, Downstairs)

Presentation: **TBD**

Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon Bee Project

1:40–2:40 PM **How to Market your Honey, Labeling in the US, Varietals**

Amina Harris, UC Davis Honey & Pollination Center

2:50–3:50 PM **Essentials for Wax Dipping of Bee Hive Woodenware**

Tony Kadai, Canada Wax Company

3:50–4:20 PM **Group Break in Tradeshow**  
Sponsored by: TBD

4:20–4:35 PM **Oxalic Acid Vaporization Efficacy on Varroa** (Location TBD)—OSU Graduate Student, TBD

4:40–4:55 PM **Varroa topic** (Location TBD)  
OSU Graduate Student, TBD

5:00–5:15 PM **Varroa topic** (Location TBD)  
OSU Graduate Student, TBD

5:20–6:00 PM **General Membership Meeting** (Location TBD)

6:00–7:00 PM **Social Hour**

7:00 PM **Silent Auction and Online Auction End**

7:00–10:00 PM **\*Banquet Dinner and Live Auction** (Conference Center, Downstairs)

7:15–7:45 PM **Project Apis m. Update**  
George Hansen, Project Apis m.

7:55–8:25 PM **American Honey Queen Presentation**  
Selena Rampolla, American Honey Queen

### Sunday, October 29, 2023

7:00–8:00 AM **Registration, Submit Honey Show Entries** (Conference Center, Lobby)

7:00 AM–12:20 PM **Tradeshow Open** (Conference Center, Lobby)

8:00–8:10 AM **Welcome & Announcements**  
Joe Maresh & Jeremy Mitchell, OSBA

8:15–9:15 AM **Emergence and Control of Antimicrobial-Resistant Foulbrood Disease** (Location TBD)  
Sarah Wood, University of Saskatchewan

9:20–10:20 PM **Native Bees in Agriculture and Natural Ecosystems** (Location TBD)  
Diana Cox-Foster USDA ARS, Logan, Utah

10:20–10:50 AM **Group Break in Tradeshow, Submit Tradeshow Passport at Registration Desk** (Conference Center, Lobby)

Sponsored by: TBD

10:50 AM–12:20 PM Breakout Sessions:

1. **Honey Tasting & The UC Davis Honey Wheel** (Location TBD)

Amina Harris, UC Davis Honey and Pollination Center

2. **Swarm Removal/Cutouts** (Location TBD)

Adrian Perez, Gold Coast Bee Company

3. **OSU Honey Bee Lab Brood Disease Workshop**

Carolyn Breece, OSU Honey Bee Lab

4. **\*Encaustic Painting Workshop** (preregistration required) (Location TBD)

George Hansen, Foothills Honey Company

12:20 PM **Exhibitor Move-Out**

12:30–2:00 PM **\*Luncheon** (Conference Center, Downstairs)

12:45–1:30 PM **Services Offered by OSU for Beekeepers**  
Ramesh Sagili, OSU Honey Bee Lab

1:40–2:00 PM **Honey Auction**

2:10–3:40 PM **OSU Honey Bee Lab Brood Disease Workshop**  
Carolyn Breece, OSU Honey Bee Lab

3:45 PM **Final Comments, Tradeshow Passport Prizes & Adjourn**—Joe Maresh & Jeremy Mitchell, OSBA



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## Keeping Bees in July

*Todd Balsiger*

Rosanna asked me to do the tips again. So I get to write and say hello to everyone again. Hello. Maybe I will see you at our picnic on July 8!

I'm writing this on June 9. I used the last of my honey supers yesterday. I need more. Never have I had so many full supers at this time of year. If this continues, our early summer honey totals will be impressive, and then dearth will come long and hard.

Our weather has been such a seesaw, merry-go-round, yo-yo the last three years. 2021? June heat dome culminating with a 116 degree roast on June 29. 2022? Almost 2 inches of snow fell at the Portland airport April 11 and 12, the latest spring accumulation on record, followed by the wettest May since 1941. This year, May will go down as the warmest on record which brought rain-free skies which continued into June. We also had a number of days with hot, dry east winds. A bit disconcerting!

How has this affected the bees so far? How many swarms have you caught this year? If you were a dry land farmer, would you have planted a crop this May? Seems bees and humans think alike.



Late July brings the end of the nectar flow and the beginning of dearth for most areas. This year it may start earlier.

Typically by late July or early August all supers should be off and hives configured for winter.

Removing supers during dearth can elicit robbing behavior. IT IS better to skip a tiny increase, if that, in honey yield and remove supers before full-blown dearth. The bees will appreciate the extra honey. It's no fun running with a full super to get it away from robber bees! Albeit, you could make this a form of exercise and skip out on gym dues.

Reduce entrances, especially on weak hives and ones being fed. This will allow them to adequately defend themselves against robbing and reduce yellowjacket predation. For example, instead of 16 inches of an opening, make it 3 or 4 inches.

At this time of year, I am looking at consolidation and addressing underperforming hives. Folding up hives and allocating their resources to better prospects probably isn't a bad idea.

### Varroa

I am always thinking about Varroa and managing them throughout the year. It's a yearly treatment plan, which occurs at different times of the year. Skip one crucial time to treat and Varroa can go the wrong direction. Or it goes the wrong direction regardless . . . Randy Oliver has been my

absentee mentor—never in person but through his web site. Lately Randy has been preaching rotation of treatment types. Clearly he regrets saying Varroa become more vulnerable to oxalic the more they are exposed to it, or using the washing hands with soap/bugs haven't developed resistance yet analogy . . .

So, I recommend that for you, too. Rotate.

I've been an oxalic, formic, and an amitraz applicator (I have applied ONE application of blue shop towels with amitraz generally in August the last 3 years, cheap). I'm also always looking for Varroa (sampling with Randy's cups with Dawn soap, looking at open drone cells, etc.). Find those outlier mite bomb hives early that for whatever reason have elevated Varroa and treat with a formic application or something along these lines. Wipe out the Varroa in mite bomb hives. An aside, I prefer queen cells over mated queens for brood break treatments with an oxalic and glycerin (never sugar for me) dribble. You can undoubtedly do the same with purchased queens with a bit more effort.

At this time, brood production is decreasing and Varroa production is most likely increasing. In the past I have used the tsunami wave analogy—the initial wave is the initial Varroa infestation wave, then through robbing and bee drift there can be repeat waves of Varroa infestation.

I believe how well you take care of your bees in the third quarter (July, August, September/early October) to a great extent decides the fate of your hives.

Keep Varroa in check until fall rains come and the robbing season ends. I know it is not easy. I've heard stories of extremely competent beekeepers who've struggled and had to use multiple treatments and were still unsuccessful in getting Varroa below threshold levels. They tried.

Let's go back to what Carolyn Breece wrote a few years ago. What she wrote sums it up nicely: "I treat our OSU hives immediately after honey harvest (late July). Some years, our post-treatment mite counts reveal that we still have a mite problem and we need to treat again. So, we treat again in August/early September, but our options are usually limited due to high temperatures. Some years, we have had to treat yet again in late September/October because our mite levels STILL were not in our comfort zone. Why? Was it an ineffective product? Do we have rogue neighbors that don't treat their bees? I don't know the answer, but what I do know for sure is that if I hadn't taken post-treatment samples, I would have thought the bees were just fine after the first round in late July. I would have relaxed all autumn thinking my bees are OK. And then, without a doubt, I would be devastated to find that my hives crashed in winter. Post-treatment sampling is everything!"

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## BEEKEEPER EVENTS

## — 2023 —

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

July 28–29: **Heartland Apicultural Society**. Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green KY. *Information:* <https://www.heartlandbees.org/>.

July 31–August 4: **Eastern Apiculture Society Conference**, Past, Present and Beyond. Amherst MA. *Information:* [easternapiculture.org/conference/eas-2023/](http://easternapiculture.org/conference/eas-2023/).

August 25–September 4: **Oregon State Fair**. Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center. Salem. *Information* (when available): <https://oregonstatefair.org/#>. Also see Volunteer Sign-Up at: <https://orsba.org/> (bottom of page).

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

September 29–October 1: **WAS International Conference**. Grey Eagle Resort and Casino Calgary, Canada. *Information:* <https://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/2023conference>.

This live, in-person conference 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." 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. Discounted registration until August 28. For more information, contact WAS Member-at-Large Dewey Caron ([carond@oregonstate.edu](mailto:carond@oregonstate.edu)) or WAS Oregon representative Nelda Murri ([nmurri@gmail.com](mailto: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.california-statebeekeepers.com/annual-convention/>.

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

## REGIONAL NEWS

## Regional Representatives

## North Coast

What a difference a year makes. Here on the coast it rained right up to the summer solstice last year. This year by June we'd already had a month of sun—the bees are busy and the beekeepers are trying to keep up—knocking the mites down before the honey supers go on, trying to prevent swarms, chasing them when they occur, helping neighbors with cut outs, culling old hardware and adding new hardware, combining weak colonies, expanding the apiary with splits, making nucs and raising a few queens. Whoever said, "April is the cruelest month" never raised bees!

Growing colonies need more room for brood, pollen, and of course, honey. We've had an explosion of forage all through June. First the bigleaf maples, then trailing blackberries, hawthorn trees, Ceanothus, thimbleberries, and chittum. All the foragers are coming back covered in orange Scotch broom pollen—it's getting hard to find my marked queens. The Himalayan blackberries are just starting to show their buds, and the honey supers are bursting with nectar. It looks like a great year for honey.

On the down side, this time of year my neighbor's five-acre field used to be a carpet of yellow rough cat's ear (a dandelion look alike). He started raising sheep a year ago, now it's barren of flowers. Good for sheep, but now a dearth for honey bees and other pollinators.

The Central Coast Beekeepers has a new president, Max Kuhn—one of the original founders of the association. Max has lots of good ideas for the future of the group. They've also got some young blood coming in with a new VP, Jacob Helton. He's still in his twenties and full of enthusiasm. Us old-timers will have to try hard to keep up!

*Rick Olson*

## South Coast

March ended in May this year. The rain ended on Cinco de Mayo, and the first day of spring was obviously May 6. The sun made its debut and everything that had been holding its breath for two months raised a salute to the sun and let out a great sigh of ahhh.



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The race was on. Everything went into high production. A week later, big patches grass that had grown an inch a day died in the scorching afternoon heat of Mother's Day Sunday. Much of it had already gone to seed. And there was rattlesnake grass that usually waits until mid-summer. By early June, it's an Oregon Coast jungle!



Old roads and trails are getting grown over. The best part is that all of the fruit trees that often get most of their blossoms destroyed by March storms managed to hold off blooming until May this year. Beekeeping chores seem to be piling on top of each other, but the final results seem possibly beyond anything experienced in this millenium.

The hills are covered with blue and gold. Cyanotha is the blue and the bright yellow, the predominant color everywhere in the wild along the south coast. Highway 101 is the showcase of the object of our love/hate relationship with the beautiful but very invasive Scotch broom that drapes its luxuriously blossomed bright branches in graceful arch of plenty for all to see as they drive by, unwittingly getting some of its reproductive efforts onto the tires to carry on down the road to another place to flourish. The lupine is having its field day, with the yellow variety dominating the sand dunes that had all been burned by a wildfire from a vehicle accident on Highway 101 near the bridge over the Pistol River. Otherwise shades of blue dominate elsewhere. Another favorite view at that site is of the very artfully carved faces on the log hives, such as Bee Beard.

We received our nucs from on May 21, 6 weeks after the packages arrived on April 6. They still have a ways to catch up, but are building up fast and expected to be ready by the time the blackberries become the thing to bee. The terminal blossoms are flagging the beginning by the second week of June.

Tower of Jewels, AKA Echim, is one of my favorite bee plants, and I have been bragging on it being in bloom for the entire season, putting out a new blossom at the ends of its myriad of tendrils every day, from April to October. But now that



there has been this great growth rush into June, it looks like they have already spent most of their wad. Still we dug up a dozen or so little ones to share with other beekeepers. On a single stalk, they will grow into a big clump of long leaves the first year and then the next year will shoot for the sun, like a century plant, some as high as the peak of a one-story building, but covered from bottom to tip top with either blue or pink bee-sized blossoms. They should be full of bees most of the summer, including many bumble bees.

Coos County beekeepers have been producing some good video,

listed on their website. Oregon South Coast beekeepers are preparing to reestablish the Educational Apiary now that the new owner has responded with support. The apiary location was chosen for being remote, beyond housing and other beekeepers. Besides being a place for beekeeping demonstrations, it also serves as a handy and secure location for temporary placement of hives that are being transitioned from one place on a property to another place too nearby for a direct move.

There are such joys to beekeeping and such adventures as swarm rescuers! And so much appreciation! Cheers!

*Mureen Walker*

## Regional Associations

### Central Oregon Beekeepers Association

Overall we had a great June this year. With the late moisture in May and early June, everything was nice and green. It did seem like more than usual evergreen tree pollen, and we wonder how that translated into *useful for bees* pollen. With the warm weather in the same period, the bees were excelling. Although community-reported swarms were normal but not excessive, many of our members did have own-colony swarms, including not only their established colonies, but also newly (1.5 months ago) installed nucs. Probably another opportunity for education and reminders. In June we had a wonderful field day with guest speakers Dewey Caron and Heike Williams. The goal was to cover subjects of use/interest to both beginners as well as more experienced beekeepers.

In June we frequently have a dearth in the native areas after the bitterbrush, dandelions, and Oregon sunshine finish up, but before the sagebrush and sulfur buckwheat get going. It's frequently a surprise for us as our colonies have been looking so productive during the spring buildup times. In July we're planning on a talk about the current research at OSU and maybe a *Varroa outlook*.

As always, please accept our invitation to join us, the third Tuesday of most months, at the Environmental Center in Bend, starting at 6 PM (5:30 PM for the beginner's corner). *Allen Engle*

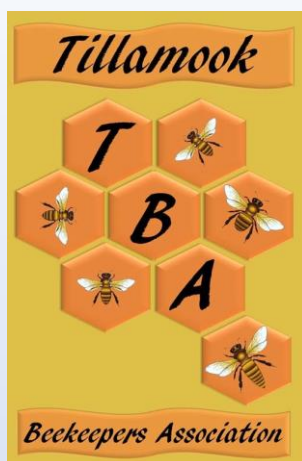
### Portland Metro Beekeepers Association

Summer arrived with an emphasis on warm days and sunshine. At the time of this post, blackberry buds are bursting and the nectar flow is on! Some members report adding a second and third super in a matter of days.

At our May meeting beekeepers shared tips regarding when to add supers, prepping frames with wax if undrawn, and reducing the number of frames in your supers (7 in an 8 frame, 9 in a 10 frame). The extra space will allow the bees to create extra thick frames of honey. Monitor how your bees are storing honey, typically they store in center frames, so adjust as needed.

In the garden, bees have been all over sticky geranium, spiderwort,

# OPEN HOUSE!



## July 15<sup>th</sup> 11:00 to 1:00

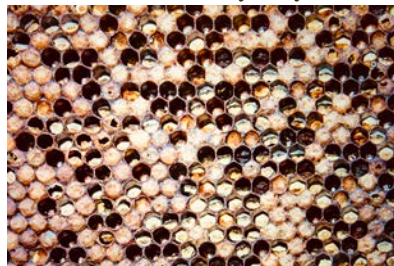
Behind the old Officer's  
Mess Hall at the Port of  
Tillamook Bay  
6825 Officer's Row  
(home of Blimp Museum)

Tillamook Beekeepers Association  
Invites all Oregon beekeepers to the  
**OPEN HOUSE** of their new  
Apiary & Garden Learning Center



ceanothus, poppies, heuchera, alyssum, and so much more!

My colonies are not as strong as I had hoped, challenged by chalkbrood. As many of you know, chalkbrood can be easily



recognized by visual inspection of mummified

bee brood on the bottom board as well as in uncapped cells on frames. Chalkbrood is considered a stress-related disease, which could be the reason for its increased occurrence in recent years, alongside a stressed new beekeeper. Honey was never my goal with beekeeping; however, “nobody wants to be eaten by a fungus from the inside out.” Despite immediate removal of top feeders, entrance reducers, and warmer weather, the symptoms persist. Chalkbrood is caused by a fungus *Ascosphaera apis* that produces spores then ingested by honey bee larvae. The spores germinate in the developing bee’s gut, then hyphae (fungal branches) penetrate the gut wall a few days after being consumed; ultimately the infected larvae die of starvation. Chalkbrood does not usually kill a colony but renders it weakened and less productive. Elizabeth Walsh, a USDA Agricultural Research Scientist at Baton Rouge, studies chalkbrood epidemiology. “Advice to keep strong colonies is inadequate,” and she is currently working with an LSU undergraduate on experiments to find a potential treatment substance to control chalkbrood (*Bee Culture* Feb 2023). At this time, I have removed and replaced all brood frames with >10% infestation and have re-queened both colonies . . . stay tuned.

Bee Day was a huge success with a sunny day in the Hansen apiary, instructive lectures, morning and afternoon hive inspections with experienced beekeepers reviewing everything from lighting a smoker to finding a queen and mite checks. Congratulations to George Hansen on his encaustic painting “A Spoonful of Honey” that won the Purchase Award at OSU Art About Agriculture Competition. This art exhibition can be viewed at Portland’s 5 Centers for the Arts, November 17–December 31.



Our May lecture with Mandy Shaw was extremely informative with her contagious enthusiasm for catching swarms (can you hear the queen’s piping, tooting, and quacking!). Those of you who know Mandy, she is very passionate about beekeeping and catching a swarm is her “adrenaline sport.” “Taking a swarm call is also a golden opportunity to connect with the community as a bee advocate.” Her tips are to be prepared, stay calm, be

patient, and do not take the swarm home before sunset. Those who participated at Bee Day may have seen Mandy guide a hive inspection. She donated a veil from her company to a lucky raffle winner and was modeling her latest creation, a lightweight full bee suit available this fall.

Dewey Caron shared the PNW 2022 honey bee survey results at our June meeting. Oregon beekeepers experienced a 30% winter loss last year, which is lower than years past (8% below normal when you average the past 14 years), and PMBA was consistent with the state average; we had 50 participants. Our first “women in beekeeping” apiary tour was well attended, orchestrated by our own PMBA communicator Cindy Geffel. This small gathering allowed time for both social and educational conversation while inspecting two hives. We shared our own beekeeping success, struggles, hive management tips, reading and video recommendations. We plan to continue monthly apiary visits. Next up is Andy Rapp in July and Troy Goodin in August. Upcoming events in August include participation at the Clackamas County Fair and our PMBA annual picnic.

Be grateful for your bees!

*Sandi Collis*

### Tillamook Beekeepers Association

The Tillamook Beekeepers Association has set July 15 as the date for the Grand Opening of our Apiary and Garden Learning Center at the Port of Tillamook Bay. We believe the Center is a unique facility and want to show it off. Events will begin at 11 AM, and there will be signs to direct the public from Highway 101. We are proud of what has been accomplished so far and look forward to more landscaping, picnic tables, and benches that will come. Hope to see many of you there.

We are working on setting priorities for our apiary. The first priority is providing a space for education of our members and the public. We will eventually have a few different types of hives for demonstration and comparison. Hands-on experience is needed, and we will be inviting members to drop in on apiary workdays to help with tasks. Classes are being taught at local schools, and we will now be able to invite students to the apiary for a field trip. Another priority is raising locally adapted queens to promote pest resistance and winter survival.

Carolyn Breece from the OSU Honey Bee Lab was our speaker on June 10. She did a presentation about the life cycle of Varroa mites, and then we all went to the apiary for some hands-on learning. Thank You, Carolyn, for your time and expertise.

The blackberries began to bloom on the first of June, and as our primary summer nectar flow, the bees are busy and happy now. We hope our fellow beekeepers are busy and happy also.

*Patsy Weber*

### Umpqua Valley Beekeepers Association

I really hope these nice crisp mornings continue. Something about the cool smell of morning that really jump starts the ambition!



Our first Beeks Academy was so successful that we held another one the following weekend. We are looking forward to more successes that enrich those involved in these opportunities!

We would like to thank Cynthia Moyer for her hard work and dedication to our organization. Our appreciation for her runs deep. Her efforts will remain prominent for many years to come. We know in our hearts that any organization would be lucky to have her and her many talents. As we welcome Kelly Heard as our new treasurer,

Cynthia will remain webmaster until we are able to shift the account to Marianne Sierocinska. We are still on the hunt for a social media chair and membership director.

We have several scheduled events and a few pending coming up! We are excited to receive and start using our new observation hives at these events. We've ordered two new ones with a hope to reduce stress on the colonies that have been recruited to endure days full of strange gazes into their lives. The Blooms & Butterflies at the Elkton Community Education Center was on Saturday, June 17. The Lavender Festival at Growing Miracles Lavender Garden is Friday-Sunday, July 7-9. We have been invited to help plan and run a booth for Pollinator Appreciation Day at the Umpqua Valley Farmers Market, date is yet to be determined. We will follow up on these events.

Some of our members attended a removal at an old farmhouse that is scheduled for demolition. During



the cleanup process, one of our members, Rick Pruitt, was



wandering around and found an old beehive that was made out of a hollowed section of a tree. The hollow has a bottom board nailed to the bottom, and

a spacer that's framed for an 8-frame super, nailed to the top (I placed an 8-frame super on it for demonstration).

The hollow came with an inscription that reads:

F. Buxton  
Roseburg  
Oregon  
1910

\*\*\*\*\*

You never hear the bee complain  
Or ever weep or wail  
Yet if you wish it can unfold  
A very painful tail

We have attended two elementary school Field Day events. Glide Elementary's Everything Garden event for their 3rd grade classes was a success! They broke out into groups of 4-5 kids with a 5th-grader chaperone. The kids, teachers, and parents all took turns searching for the queen in our observation hive while trying to stump the beekeeper with questions! A very inquisitive group! Roseburg Virtual School, K-8, had a very rambunctious turnout. With all the activities that were around, a core group of kids gathered around the observation hive with



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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*.

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13601 S Union Hall Rd, Canby OR 97013

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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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Note:** To renew or join online, please visit:  
[orsba.org/membership](http://orsba.org/membership)

***Thank you!***

an endless amount of questions. Beekeeping equipment was on display at both events, and, as always, the bees and honey sticks were a big hit! We were also invited to give a presentation to a retirement community, where the residents, family members, and staff peered through the glass of our observation hive in an

attempt to find the queen and learn more about bees and their importance to our food supply.

Our Swarm Chasers need to catch a breath! We may need to return to the workshop to make more equipment if this keeps up!

*Adrian Aramburu*



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

Summer afternoon – summer afternoon;  
to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.

– Henry James

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## ***The Bee Line***

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

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

The next issue to be printed will be the **August 2023** issue. The deadline for submitting copy is **July 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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