The Bee Line

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Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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

Image above: May baskets of every kind be filled with such goodness!

To Bee or Not to Bee, That Is the Question

Testimony Presented to the Brownsville City Council, May 23, 2023

Kathleen Swayze

If "not to bee" is the answer, then let's review the consequences.

1) We should start with the definition of bee. Honey bees, *Apis mellifera*, are pollinators. They are NOT yellowjackets, hornets, wasps, etc., though many people think they are and just call them all bees. They are NOT.

These other insects are aggressive. They like people food such as pop, beer, hot dogs, meat, potato salad. They will be at your next BBQ. They are aggressive, and they sting!

Honey bees are pollinators. They like flowering fruits, vegetables, trees, and flowers, not BBQs.

2) Honey bees travel 2–3 miles, even 5 miles, from their hive or bee box to their flowers. There are hundreds of commercial bee boxes surrounding Brownsville that the farmers put out to pollinate their crops. They are there through the summer.

3) How are we going to identify these out-of-towners from our honey bees? Should we erect nets, post signs (small ones), or perhaps a wall? It could be more effective to ban flowers and fruit trees from our community so they wouldn't attract honey bees across our town border.

4) How will we be enforcing the bee ban? Very small bee jails or rehab centers? Counseling? What about repeat offenders . . . community service?

Seriously, why not have reasonable regulation of honey bees and bee keepers? After all, 33% of all our food is pollinated by honey bees and other pollinating bees. Mortality rates from stings in the US are 1 in 5,555,556. You have more of a chance of dying falling out of bed. Our pollinators are in sharp decline. We need to encourage education about and protection of them, our food supply depends on it.

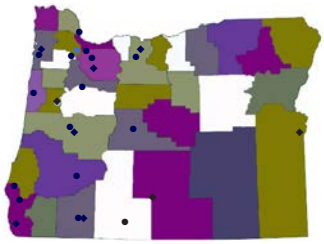
I urge you to review the common sense regulations the city of Hubbard adopted on May 28, 2021. Hubbard is a small rural town of about 3,500 people. They adopted a simple 9-point regulation of residential bee keeping. It's working. Contact them.

It would be a sensible guide for Brownsville, too. Honey bees are too vital to our global and local community to ban. Please let them bee.

Note: After the meeting, Mike Rodia emailed a copy of the testimony he also had provided during the meeting with the Brownsville City Council, along with a few comments, including the following: "It was standing room only (literally) with about 40 citizens, besides the nine Council members and staff, who were present. Usually there are only a few people at these meetings. As far as I could tell, all except one person wanted the ban removed. Following my presentation and that of seven others who spoke in favor of removing the ban, a spokesperson for a friend advised that his friend has a heart condition and a potential death allergy to bee stings. They cannot use can Epi-Pen without bringing on heart failure. They fear for their life . . . The Council voted unanimously to Stay the ban and to come up with residential beekeeping rules (probably similar to Hubbard's rules)."

Thanks to Mike, Kathleen, and all involved for bee time and care!

OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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North Willamette Valley
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South Willamette Valley
Tim Wydronek—541.740.4127; timwydronek@comcast.net

• AFFILIATED REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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

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

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

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

Coos Beekeepers Association
Meets 6:00 PM, fourth Thursday, Myrtle Point
President: Ann Marineau—annmarineau@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Portland Urban Beekeepers
Meets 7:00 PM, first Wednesday, via Zoom
President: Brent Hirak—president@portlandurbanbeekeepers.org
Website: portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

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

Tillamook Beekeepers Association
Meets 11:30 AM, second Saturday, Tillamook
President: Brad York—dbradleyyork@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

Fun, Indeed, at the 2023 Oregon State Fair!

Oregon State Fair Handbook: https://oregonstatefair.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023-HoneyandProductsoftheHive-2023.pdf

A Call to All Beekeepers

The Oregon State Fair is coming up fast (August 25–September 4, 2023), and we are ready! Our presentation this year should be a lot of fun for all involved.

The theme for our booth is "Flower Power!" focusing on the honey bee's monumental role in pollination, affecting the food chain and beyond. This theme will be reinforced throughout the Floral Building, and perhaps even via the new official mascot of the Oregon State Fair, Sunny the Sunflower.

In order to make this come together "like clockwork," we need volunteers to help construct the booth, staff the booth, assist with entry intake, assist with judging, with breaking the booth down, and with probably a few other important tasks. Your help is much appreciated. Just let me know what you're interested in doing. Sign up (link below) and/or contact me at: bonjking@gmail.com.

Nick VanCalcar & Austin King put up our sign in 2022.

Wanted: Individuals for 3 shifts a day, for 11 days. Shifts are 10 AM–2 PM, 2 PM–6 PM, and 6 PM–CLOSE. There are a lot of time slots to choose from. Consider signing up your association for an entire day! Take turns in the booth and enjoy the fair when you're not on shift. Plus, you can save gas by coming together!

Wanted: Help set up and/or break down the booth. Set up is Tuesday August 21, and break down is Tuesday, September 6.

Volunteer Sign Up: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11ZV0fDPwoy27S1sFJ70yCffbved8VVdxFots8pbO66k/edit?usp=sharing

Wanted: Nucs for our observation hive! Please contact our hive coordinator, Jeremy Mitchell: jeremy@flyingbeeranch.net.

Competition: For information about competing in the fair this year, check out the rules and regs, which are posted on the Oregon State Fair website under "Honey and Products of the Hive." There are some additions to the competition, so please read through the Handbook (link at top of this page).

Our booth is in the Floral Building, just to the north of Columbia Hall, in a very open, visible location. The building is air conditioned, the restrooms are close by, and we have access to a kitchen/refrigerator.

If you've already signed up, thank you! All volunteers get fair passes and free parking, and water bottles are provided. Everyone listed on the schedule will receive a letter from me explaining the details in advance of the fair.

If you are interested in assisting the judging, organizing special events, or helping out with other tasks, please contact me directly. There are a lot of fun opportunities!

See you at the fair! *Bonnie King*

"Honey and Products of the Hive" Competition

The 2023 Oregon State Fair is coming right up! I hope you've been planning to enter in the "Honey & Products of the Hive" competition. In fact, online entries are already being accepted. The state fair takes place August 25–September 4, and OSBA members always have a strong showing. Make this YOUR year!

The competition is open to all Oregonians, so the entries are quite varied and challenging. There are several competitions to choose from; exhibitors are limited to one entry per class and a maximum of 6 entries per person.

Competing at the state fair is a great warm up for our upcoming OSBA Fall Conference and Honey Show. More information on the Conference Honey Show will be in the September edition of *The Bee Line*. Most of the divisions and classes in the State Fair Competition are very similar to the OSBA Honey Show, so please get involved and plan to enter in both of the big honey competitions this year!

The divisions are listed below, including the criteria for which your products will be judged. More thorough details can be found in the State Fair Handbook. This year, a new class has been created under bee-related items for original Honey Jar Label Art, and a new Honey Cooking Contest was also added, which will be a tasty delight for visitors August 30.

All exhibits must have been produced under the direct management of the Exhibitor and produced from the apiary of the Exhibitor between September 2022 and August 2023.

Online entries are open now, just go to this link: https://oregon.fairwire.com/ and follow the instructions. The entry deadline is 10 PM, Monday, August 21.

Your entries must be delivered to the Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center on Wednesday, August 23, 2 PM–7 PM (all entries except for Honey Cooking). Enter through the Green gate on 17th Street, and follow signs to the Floral Building. Bring a copy of

your online registration receipt. Honey Cooking Contest entries must be delivered on Wednesday, August 30, 7:30–8:30 AM.

Entries will be judged according to The Oregon State Beekeepers Association standards or Welsh Honey Judging methods. Judging takes place before the fair opens, and ribbons affixed to all winning entries. Ribbons will be awarded for: Best of Division; 1st, 2nd, 3rd for each class; and the Oregon Award.

Judging for the Honey Cooking Contest will take place the same day entries are received, Wednesday, August 30.

If you have any questions, please let me know (bonjking@gmail.com). Good Luck!

Bonnie King

Oregon State Fair Judging Criteria

#242 ARTISTIC BEESWAX

Artistic Beeswax can be several shades of beeswax, i.e., brood or capping wax. Artificial enhancements accepted but should not overpower the beeswax.

- Creativity & appearance
- Clean lines – no impurities
- Variety in colors
- Stability of design

#242 BEESWAX BLOCK / CANDLES

Beeswax Block (1 lb minimum); 2 dipped or molded candles, 100% beeswax.

- Cleanliness (down-grade for impurities)
- Color, odor & brightness – straw, canary, shades of yellow
- Uniformity of appearance
- Freedom from cracks or blemishes

#243 EXTRACTED HONEY (any variety)

3 one pound or one pint, uniformly filled, Glass jars only: Queenline or otherwise, no labels.

- Cleanliness, freedom of foam & dirt
- Variety flavor, down-grade for objectionable flavor, over-heating or fermentation
- Degree of density – DQ above 18.6%
- Freedom of crystals – clarity
- Neatness & clean condition of bottles (No Labels)
- Uniformity of filling exhibit

#244 EXTRACTING FRAME WITH CAPPED HONEYCOMB

One frame (any size).

- Uniformity of appearance
- Absence of uncapped cells
- Uniformity of color
- Absence of watery cappings
- Cleanliness of section or frame

#244 CHUNK HONEY

3 one pound or one pint jars.

- Uniformity of appearance, color of cappings & thickness of comb
- Neatness of cut, size uniformity
- Absence of watery cappings, uncapped & Pollen cells
- Cleanliness: travel stain, foreign matter, flakes of wax, foam, debris
- Density & flavor of honey

#244 COMB HONEY / CUT COMB HONEY

3 square or round sections comb honey; 3 uniformly cut comb pieces (min 12 oz each).

- Uniformity of color & appearance
- Absence of uncapped cells & watery cappings
- Cut comb cut neatness
- Cleanliness of section or frame
- Uniformity of weight (except frame)
- Lack of granulation & pollen

#244 CREAMED HONEY

3 one pint or one pound jars.

- Fineness of crystals
- Uniformity & firmness
- Cleanliness & lack of foam
- Flavor, down-grade for off flavor, over heating

#245 BEE-RELATED ITEMS

Photographs, Jewelry, Honey Jar Labels, and more.
Photographs must be 8x10 mounted in a black frame.

- Presentation
- Creativity
- Craftsmanship

#246 OREGON AWARD

Any bee-related item that celebrates Oregon. To be eligible, entries need to be Oregon-centric – easily recognizable as focused on Oregon. (1 entry per exhibitor).

- Creativity & appearance
- Presentation
- "Oregon-centric" Theme
- Flavor (if applicable)

#247 HONEY COOKING CONTEST

Decorated Cake (or 12 cupcakes); recipe must include honey and décor must reflect honeybees/beekeeping industry. Recipe must accompany entry. (Entries must be delivered Wednesday, August 30 from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM.)

- Appearance/Decoration
- Theme
- Recipe
- Consistency
- Texture
- Flavor

Keeping Bees in August

Matt Allen

Every month is a busy month for a beekeeper, but August is particularly important. The weather is hot and dry, maybe with the occasional thunderstorm. It feels like the peak of summer, but this critical month is when we need to start thinking towards winter. It's time to strip the rest of your honey crop. Will they be heavy enough for winter or will you need to feed? Are there enough bees in the hive? Will the queen be viable until next spring? And probably most important for this month is, Are your mite levels under control?

August is the month to harvest the remainder of your honey. In many locations, even earlier. By mid-August, most marketable honey flows have tapered off. Pull your supers and start to focus on fall. Buckwheat is a notable exception. Be aware that, if you decide to go after this potential honey crop, it may be difficult to get your mite levels under control in a timely manner. Make sure you have a plan in place. More on that later.

Queens availability will also begin to taper off at this point in the year. It is important to realize that new queens will not be available again until next spring. Are your queens laying a strong pattern? Do they have a good retinue? If the colony is weak or spotty, now is a good time to requeen. Requeening now, in concert with timely feeding, allows enough time and resources for a weak colony to turn around and build up before winter. If your queens are failing now, they will be failing in a month and failing in the spring. Failing queens are a major cause of colony loss in the spring. Replace her while you still can. It is generally easier to find queens in August than in September, and definitely easier to find queens in August than in March.

How big are your colonies? If a colony is not solidly filling a box and a half with bees, it will require some additional attention. What is the brood pattern like? If spotty or drone-y, it may need requeening. A steady diet of supplemental protein and sugar syrup may work to build up some small colonies, provided strong queens and healthy brood. Otherwise, it is a good idea to start combining weaker colonies to get them ready for winter. Be sure to ask yourself why a colony may be small before combining. Combining sick colonies with healthy ones may be detrimental to your operation (AFB!!).

There are many opinions regarding supplemental feeding in the fall. At the minimum, it is a good idea to heft your hives to get a feel for weight. If it feels moderate or light, feed. If it hurts your fingers to heft, it might not need feeding. It's a good idea to look at those extra heavy hives. They could be queen-less or weak. Regardless of weight, you might consider supplemental syrup and/or pollen feeding in order to stimulate brood rearing and help carry brood rearing later into the fall. This can help ensure a large healthy young population headed into winter.

Lastly, and probably most importantly for August, is the ever-present issue of Varroa. August is a critical month for Varroa management. Take an alcohol wash sample. August brood will become the bees that raise your winter bees. If you have not read Randy Oliver's series on Fat Bees, you should. If you have, great. Re-read it. This series does a great job of explaining exactly why you need to have your mite levels down in August and keep them down through the remainder of the brood-rearing season. You can find the article here: scientificbeekeeping.com/fat-bees-part-1. There are 4 parts. Boiling it down, Fat winter bees have increased vitellogenin in fat bodies to help carry them through winter and give them the energy and nutrition to commence brood rearing in the early spring. The amount of vitellogenin corresponds directly to how well fed they are as larvae, which corresponds to a large healthy population of nurse bees. The health of these nurse bees depends on having low parasite levels when they were developing. That is why August is so critical. August brood raises the brood that raises winter bees.

A side note, we now know that Varroa feeds not on hemolymph, but directly on fat body tissue (Ramsey et al. 2019). In addition to being critical for winter, the fat body, with vitellogenin, much like our liver, also provides some important detoxification function in bees.

Formic Acid, Thymol, and Amitraz are all reasonable treatments this time of year. Make sure you READ AND UNDERSTAND the label before applying. Each material and formulation of each material has its own requirements for maximum efficacy and beekeeper safety. THE LABEL IS THE LAW! After you treat, take another mite sample to gauge the efficacy of your treatment. For a detailed look at available management tools and monitoring techniques, check out resources from the Honey Bee Health Coalition: https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/. I have noticed a real challenge is not only getting Varroa mite levels low, but also keeping them low through the remainder of the fall. Be vigilant and continue treatments as necessary.

Keep in mind, when shopping for feed and treatments, supply houses are backed up this year and may take longer than expected. Plan ahead.

Enjoy the honey harvest. Smile at those big healthy bees.

Happy Beekeeping!

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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 AM **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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BEEKEEPER EVENTS

2023

August 25–September 4: **Oregon State Fair**. Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center, Salem. *Information*: https://oregonstatefair.org/#. See pages 3–4, this issue.

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. Discounted registration ends on August 28. *Information*: https://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/2023conference.

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 OR. *Information* (as it becomes available): https://orsba.org/osba-fall-conference/. See page 7; mail-in registration, page 15.

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

2024

January 9–12: **American Beekeeping Federation Annual Conference & Tradeshow**. New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans LA. *Information*: https://abfnet.org/2024-abf-conference-frame/.

Reminder: See respective regional association events in Regional News. And please let us know what you have shared and all you have learned!

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional Representatives

North Coast

The Central Coast Beekeepers staffed a table at the Waldport Pollinator event. Besides our observation hive, which always draws a crowd, there were experts and enthusiasts who know what is going on with garden friends, including bees, the Oregon Silverspot Butterfly, and the environmental issues that may threaten them. A week later we spent three days at our booth at the Lincoln County Fair. Lots of kids with cotton candy in their hands gazing at our bees looking for the queen.

Our Himalayan blackberries are at their peak here in Florence. We've checked them out daily, but only bumble bees seem to be gathering nectar from them. Not sure where the honey bees are going, but we've had a bumper crop of honey so far with several boxes of uncapped honey to go.

The bee population in our colonies is still growing, thus giving us lots of opportunities for free bee—splits, nucs, swarms, and cut-outs. Splits and nucs are easy. Swarms and cut-outs on the other hand don't always fall into your hands. Swarms often involve ladders set on uneven ground. You won't believe how fast you can get going while plunging just a few feet off the ground. Be warned.

Cut-outs are even more intense and usually involve

hammer, crowbars, and power tools. Dave, one of our Central Coast beekeepers, was put in contact with someone who had a colony in the wall of a shed. He dutifully cut out a 2' x 4' section of the exterior wall and got a nice-sized colony of bees and comb. When he asked what he should do about the wall, he was told that it was his neighbor's shed who was out of town for the week and he didn't really care. Some people don't like bees or their neighbors apparently. We asked Dave what he did and he said, "I didn't give him my name." My beekeeper survival tip for the week—ask a lot of questions before you do a cut-out. *Rick Olson*

South Coast

When I saw dark tan wax being made by bees I installed this year, I thought they must be Caucasians. This is because I had only seen that color in prior experience with the Russians that also made rich dark honey in their dark tan wax. But that same colony is now making perfectly white honeycomb. So! I hope to hear other opinions about the rich darknesses of new wax.

Curry County Fair has been the focus of Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association members for July 26–28, hosting an observation hive for the first time since 2019.

Bee-having has been excellent in the hives, with little mention of swarmings, yellowjackets, mites, or queen failures (only one reported, so far).

Foraging has been abundant. Result: Next month.

Mureen Walker

Southwestern Oregon

In Southern Oregon, beekeepers report that hive populations and brood patterns are looking good, after earlier spotty brood from cool, wet spring conditions and agricultural fungicides. Some noticed evidence of sacbrood virus, in addition to the typical EFB, as the cause of bad brood patterns. Among beekeepers sustaining high winter losses, prolonged wintry spring weather hampered rebuilding colony numbers. This may impact some of our professional beekeepers, with negative consequences.

Currently, honey harvest is underway. Mid-June thunderstorms

A Favorite Honey Bee Plant: August

Glen Andresen, glen@bridgetownbees.com

Scientific name: *Styphnolobium japonicum*

Common name: Japanese pagoda tree, Chinese scholar tree

Portland-area bloom time: August

In the Portland area, we experience somewhat of a nectar and pollen dearth this month, so I'm always on the lookout for something for the area honey bees to at least hold on to—if not add to—their honey stores. And this month's favorite bee plant is a doozy. These trees reach a height and width of at least 50 feet (though can grow to 100 feet) and have a relatively short bloom period, usually just August, though flowering sometimes starts in July. The spent flowers can look like snow after falling to the ground.

These trees are not at all common in Portland, so I was delighted to find four fine specimens on NE Prescott, between NE 17th and NE 19th. Additionally, one has been planted at the delightful Rigler School Arboretum that rings a portion of the public school's vast grassy playground on NE 52nd just south of NE Prescott. There are now more than 100 trees planted from 60 species, including some other excellent honey bee trees.

Right: One of the four *Styphnolobium japonicum* trees on NE Prescott Street in Portland.

Inset: Excellent bee forage in August.

What's in a name? Well, usually the scientific plant name is both descriptive and accurate . . . but not in this case. The tree is native to China (and perhaps Korea), but not Japan!

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followed by a week of heat pushed the blackberry nectar flow. Honey supers rapidly filled and beekeepers found themselves having to place extra boxes to prevent hives from plugging out the brood nests with honey. This flow has tapered off, and we are now seeing some robbing activities and drone eviction from hives. Star thistle is now beginning to flower, promising the return of sustenance for the hives.

Beekeepers are considering fall mite-control options. Temperatures will dictate product choice, but formic acid pads appear to be a popular option. Thymol gel will be another possibility, with one manufacturer now recommending that their product is only placed above the brood nest. There is some discussion of hop extract strips as a more gentle and less temperature-sensitive option, but our community has limited experience with the newest formulation. Individuals experimenting with oxalic/glycerin pads report promising results, but this is not FDA approved. Oxalic acid vaporization has also been shown as effective, but not at the doses approved by the FDA. Lastly, amitraz, the historic workhorse of mite eradication, continues to be used in many operations. Questions of mite resistance and product quality control make this option less reliable than in previous years.

Small hive beetle has been a topic of conversation among some sideline and commercial beekeepers in the area. We will need to watch closely for an increase in prevalence of this pest. Culling weak colonies and expedient extraction of pulled honey supers will help prevent hive beetle damage. *Andrew Watson*

Regional Associations

Central Oregon Beekeepers Association

Wow, it seems like summer is going by so quickly. We made it through the heat of July. At least in the first half of the month, we in Central Oregon didn't have much wildfire smoke. We still have the discussions as to what temperature the colonies stop foraging for nectar and pollen and instead solely bring in water. This year, as opposed to last year, they seemed to keep packing it in. Many beekeepers in our area start pulling supers mid-August to give the colonies time for winter prep.

Depending on our altitude, the sagebrush is currently blooming or has finished blooming. The Oregon Sunshine (my favorite flower name), as well. The next native bloom in this area will be the rabbitbrush, which should help our colonies backfill during the population decrease before winter.

Our poll of swarm experiences this spring concurred with the anecdotal findings that there were very few swarms to be caught this year. The results showed that most folks caught equally many of their own swarms as those that were called in by the public. And the numbers were very low. We'd be interested in hearing from other parts of the state about their swarm experiences this year.

Currently the anecdotal reports from our members are that the mite counts are remaining lower than usual. We'll be polling membership to see if, at the end of the summer, they stayed low or were kept at a reasonably low level.

In June we had a wonderful field day in lieu of our monthly meeting outside at a local farm. Dewey Caron and Heike Williams were presenters with very good feedback. A beautiful summer day with the mountains in the background always seems particularly conducive to learning.

Finally, we've opened up our annual photo contest to get the creative juices running. We've had lots of interest in past years and are always impressed with the quality and creativity of the entries. *Allen Engle*

Coos Beekeepers Association

Coos Beekeepers are working on several projects that support our association goals of education and outreach. At our last meeting, Lorna Cook walked us through her experience and how-to on queen rearing. Although I don't see myself doing it, it sure was an eye-opening process that makes me more aware of hive timelines and an overall appreciation for those who venture into it.

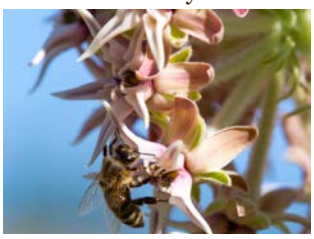
Our three training hives were showing signs of swarming, so we tried making splits, with only one being successful. However, we were able to move the unsuccessful ones back to their original hive. Every time we visit the hives for a routine inspection, doing splits, honey extraction, or even doing treatments, we send out an invitation to our members. This has been an opportunity for many to become comfortable in the apiary as well as learn from local experts.

We are raffling off a locally made horizontal hive as a fundraiser. It holds 32 Langstroth frames, has a screened bottom with a removable bottom board, a follower board, a queen excluder, and top covers. We are selling 150 tickets for $5 a piece. Contact Coos Beekeepers if you'd like a ticket! These funds will help support the association goals. The coastal areas have a short window for nectar flow and, with the cold, wet spring this year, blackberries were late blooming but are finally plentiful, along with Scotch broom and wildflowers. Spring feeding was a must in my beeyard. *Ann Marineau*

Portland Metro Beekeepers Association

An exceptional July when compared to last year . . . sunshine, very warm weather, and only a few days of rain. This translates into an abundant honey flow, rewarding beekeepers for their year-round commitment to the management of honey bees.

As the blackberry blossoms fade and fruit ripens, there are still many sources of nectar and pollen in our yard. Milkweed, sunflowers, cosmos, St John's wort, dahlia, borage, salvias, catmint, and so much more. Requeening and removal of inoculated frames appear to have resolved any sign of chalkbrood, and I will be anxious to see what next spring brings. Time to pull honey supers, close entrance reducers, and consider robbing screens.



Our most recent speaker, Dr Kelly Kulhanek, Assistant Professor of Pollinator Research and Extension at WSU, spoke on "Varroa Population Management." Dr Kulhanek is an applied research scientist specializing in honey bee health and beekeeping management practices. She is involved with the Bee Informed Partnership data collection (beeinformed.org), which is a national nonprofit organization with researchers from all over the country in collaboration with beekeepers. National winter losses for 2022 were 24.2%, and the state of Oregon was 32% (data from 124 beekeepers and >43,000 colonies). She briefly reviewed best practice management strategies (discussed at OSBA 2022 conference) with emphasis on Varroa management being the most important. Take home message: Monitor for mites monthly (remember mites need capped brood to reproduce so your strong summer colonies with lots of bees and honey are masking a large mite population by fall), treat with >3 mites/100 bees, and make sure to test after treatment. Use tools from the Honey Bee Health Coalition as management guidelines that are updated regularly. The goal of treatment is to slow mite population through the "entire growth season," which had much better results than treating all at once in the fall. To prevent resistance, we must rotate treatments, and she reviewed pyramid of IPM tactics and chemical treatment resistance. Over the past several decades, there seems to be less resistance with the use of oxalic acid and formic acid. Washington State University has been involved in the testing of a new formulation of oxalic acid (VarroxSan). This product is a stabilized form of OA (cardboard strip) that is active for 56 days with very promising results. The university is working with WSDA for EPA approval.

We will be participating at the Clackamas County Fair again this year, and we have continued our monthly apiary tours. Andy Rapp will host a July gathering, a treat for new and experienced beekeepers—an opportunity to visit a thriving apiary, honey harvest, and overwintering methods.

The association has its annual potluck on August 12 at Max Patterson Park in Gladstone. This event intermingles years of beekeeping experience with socializing of friends and family. We are busy with the sale of queens and other beekeeping equipment. Enjoy the sunshine! *Sandi Collis*

Portland Urban Beekeepers Association

Seems like just yesterday we were complaining about a lack of swarms calls and were hoping it would turn around (it never did). Now, we're past the Solstice and our bees are already noting the shorter days, just as we are gearing up into peak summer fun.

Our swarm call system was a work in progress this year. Calls were down by roughly 75% from last year. We are using a new software system, so that is certainly a big contender. But Portland's spring weather was weird, and many hives were bursting but not swarming. Ultimately, we'll tweak what we can and see how we do next year. We know the swarm list is a big part of what draws people to PUB, so our priority will be getting any issues straightened out by next spring.

We continue to mix zoom and in-person meeting. In July we were thrilled to host Lane County's Fonta Molyneaux to talk about brood inspections, and we continue to have great events out at our association apiary. Our apiary manager recently ran a queen rearing class and attracts some great subject matter experts to help apiary visitors combine visual inspections with the subject they are learning about.

The association's June Gather & Blather was a big success. The Oak Union brewers came out, and we had a joint promotion of their Spectral Mist Hazy IPA. It was great to meet new people, and we were happy to see folks from other associations, like Portland Metro Beekeepers Association, come out for some cross-pollination! *Jessica Anderson*

Tillamook Beekeepers Association

In early July, the Tillamook chapter is busy preparing for our Grand Opening of the new Apiary and Garden Learning Center on July 15. A great deal of work has been accomplished in a few short months, and we are very proud to show it off! Advertisements have been placed in newspapers, in the OSBA newsletter, and on local radio. Tillamook Beekeepers Association was the cover article in the *Ruralite* magazine in July, and we have had articles in local newspapers. These articles have already created interest in bringing people to our Learning Center. The event will include a slide show of the vision for the apiary and garden when completed as well as a tour of our honey house and apiary. It will be a day to celebrate our part in a developing food hub at the Port of Tillamook Bay (where the Blimp Hanger resides). We have had tremendous

help from several local sponsors in funding our vision, but we are not finished yet. A dozen trees and some plants are in place along with the parking lot, apiary and fencing, and storage shed. Many more will be planted when the rains begin in the fall, and we hope to attract sponsorships for a water feature, picnic tables, benches, paths, and educational signs. By the time you read this, we will have had our Grand Opening, but hope you all will stop by and visit when you are at the coast.

Patsy Weber

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association

This spring in our area was challenging, but there was a robust late-spring nectar flow for many. In May we had a good turnout for our second early season Field Day. The morning session was focused on the beginning beekeepers. In the afternoon session, Steve Gomes led a group in learning how to mark queens using drones. This year TVBA has had a plentiful supply of donated hive woodenware and tools. These items are made available at no charge to our members, with an emphasis on helping our newer beekeeper members.

In July we skip our usual member meeting, and our next event will be our summer picnic on July 15, with members and their families welcome. Dr Dewey Caron will be on site to oversee hands-on field inspections of the on-site colonies, and new members will be introduced to our honey house and how to use the equipment. The opening day of the TVBA honey house extraction season will be July 16, and it will be open for scheduled registrations for use through Labor Day.

Miles Seeley and *Debby Garman*

Umpqua Valley Beekeepers Association

At our July 5 meeting we had a good discussion on mite treatments. Some of the mite check methods and treatment options were presented, along with some of the links to information and videos that are posted on the OSBA website. We hope to discuss more and be able to do a demonstration of how to do a mite check in our coming Beeks Academies.

Our next Beeks Academy topic was discussed and scheduled. We are going to go over some of the equipment and common practices of harvesting honey. Some of our members have opened their house to host some demonstration clinics. We are excited to see how well the information flows. Such a sweet topic!

The Lavender Festival at the Growing Miracles Lavender Garden, was a huge success! Our donation bucket was overflowing with love and kindness from all who stopped by to spot the queen, sample a taste of honey, or grab a wildflower seed packet to sow in that neglected corner of their garden. Lots of people, a good variety of food and beverage concoctions (have you ever tasted BBQ flavored Fairy Floss?), tons of vendors, and such a beautiful weekend! You could not ask for a better weekend to peruse the lavender fields and cut your own lavender.

The Umpqua Valley Farmers Market has invited us to help them celebrate a Pollinator Appreciation Day on July 15. We will be there to spread the good word about these wonderful creatures. The girls will be present, perched in their observation hive. If you happen to be in the area, stop on by! We will be there from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Fair time is fun time! We are gearing up for the Douglas County Fair, August 9–12, hope to see you there! We are planning to use our newly acquired observation hives by the time the fair comes around. We hope this means less stress for the bees and easier for the beekeeper, too. Only time will tell! Because they are unfinished, we have requested some local talent help to beautify them first! Fingers crossed for some fun!

Adrian Aramburu

Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association

The Willamette Valley Beekeepers have been having a great year so far. Spring was a challenge until the weather made a change toward summer. Our membership numbers are up, meaning lots of new and energetic members. We also had a great Bee School run by Anna Ashby this year, which brought on more members.

Most recently we had our June Picnic, which was well attended. We had a guest speaker from the Black Hills area of South Dakota. He explained how they keep bees there. One major difference is how cold it gets there, so the hives have to be insulated.

This year has produced the fewest number of swarms that I can remember. Honey production has been good in the valley, although it still depends on where your bees are and their condition. The blackberry bloom is done. Other sources of nectar and pollen in the valley are: Queen Anne's lace, thistles, pumpkins, squash, mimosa or silk tree, dahlias, sunflowers, Russian sage, onion, mint, and various herbs.

It is almost time to batten down the hatches because of robbing. Some use robbing screens while others just close down the entrance. It won't be long before we all go to battle with the Varroa mites. Winter prep isn't that far off either.

Thanks to Anna, Elaine, and Nathan for lining up great speakers for this year's meetings. We wish you all the very best as the year continues on.

Richard Farrier

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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[1,4]	Online Member Individual - $100 Online Nonmember - $140 In-Person Member Individual - $150 In-Person Nonmember Individual - $190 In-Person Member Family - $180 In-Person Nonmember Family - $220		$
Encaustic Painting (Limit: 30)[2]	$20 per Person	Number Attending:_____	$
Beekeeping Basics (Limit: 40)	No Additional Cost	Number Attending:_____	$
Saturday Luncheon	$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[3]			$
Annual OSBA Dues[4]	$40 per Person	Number:_____	$
TOTAL[5, 6]			$

1) Attendees qualify for preregistration rate if application form (with registration fee) is postmarked on or before 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.

Oregon State Beekeepers Association
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orsba.org

Celebrate WORLD HONEY BEE DAY, August 19!

World Honey Bee Day began as National Honey Bee Day in 2009 with a proclamation issued by the Secretary of Agriculture, Thomas J. Vilsek. The day grew rapidly bringing awareness to the benefits and environmental needs of honey bees.

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 **September 2023** issue. The deadline for submitting copy is **August 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!

Advertising

Per Issue

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