



# The Bee Line

Volume 48  
Number 8  
September 2023

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

## Tales of Bee Mischief at the Coast!



Mureen Walker

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Membership Form—please see an earlier issue or visit <a href="https://orsba.org/membership/">https://orsba.org/membership/</a>	

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

**1. An Overnight Tailgate Party**, as told by Mureen Walker: During the big annual Azalea Festival in Brookings for Memorial Day weekend, a swarm settled on the tailgate of one of the visitors. It looked at first like an easy save. To get the bees off the closed tailgate, just pull a paper shopping bag from the bottom to the top and that's nearly all of them. It was interesting to see all the tiny globs of wax that had been applied for overnighting on the metal wall. But when the tailgate was opened, it was clear that the main interest was through a tiny slit to an area between the plastic bed liner and the metal of the truck bed. It took all day for an all-woman group to take the truck apart to get the bees out so that the visitors would be able to pack up and leave early in the morning. We did it! And now the swarm enlivens a beautiful garden and bears the name of the group, the Slackless Women's Retreat, *SWR*. The swarmcatching was a highlight of a beautiful ocean-view day on Oceanview Drive in Harbor, the 30th anniversary of annual retreats.



**2. Under-Cover Copycat Activity**, as told by Rebecca Fain: This is what happens when you forget to put the 10th frame in your deep and the bees draw out a perfect deep without the frame to replace it.

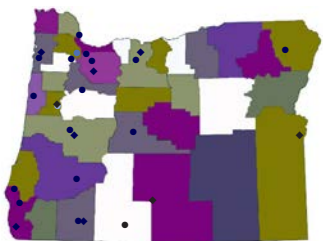


**3. Workers Dressing to the Nines**, as told by Mureen Walker: That gold appears in the hive in dramatic ways. It is impressive to see the bees landing at the entrance not only with a large load of orange pollen on each leg, but totally covered in bright yellow. And all of the honeycomb is gilded bright golden. The Scotch Broom is a most aggressive pollinator. When the bee takes her position on the bloom and inserts her head at the inner part, there is an explosion of spring-loaded anthers that shoot up from behind, come up over the back of the bee, and pollinate her all over! That's why we see the bees totally covered over, noticing that it is as they walk into the entrance that they are fully powdered, even under their wings and beyond. The aggressive plant actually entraps that bee, making it a struggle to get disentangled from the tightly curved anthers. It is impressive seeing the effort it takes and then watch the bees go and do the very same thing over and over again, like some caring saint, oblivious to the abuse. The see video of this find [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8\\_BdoP\\_jkw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8_BdoP_jkw) by Pat Reed, who supplied the video for the OSBA booth at Oregon State Fair several years ago. He says the Scotch Broom and the name of his town both came in the late 1800s from Bandon, Ireland. The scourge of Bandon, however, was sourced from Scotland, they say, in the form that is often mistaken for the Broom when in bloom but is actually the far more hatefully invasive and cruel, armored all over in viciously long stiff needles, the gross Gorse.



—What have **your** bees been up to this year?

## OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



### OSBA OFFICERS

#### President

Joe Maresh—503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com

#### Vice President

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### ♦ OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### North Coast

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#### 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 Beekeepers 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

#### Wallowa County Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:30 PM, last W (F,A,J,A); first W (N), Enterprise  
Co-President: Nelda Murri—509.540.4733

#### Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association

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

## Fall Conference and Affiliation Updates

### Message from the President

Hi, All. Wow, where did the summer go. It's hard to believe that fall is upon us, everything is all dried out, and the fruit is ripening. It is time to get our bees ready for winter, lots of feeding and yes checking for mites, and doing last-minute mite treatments if necessary. Soon the fall rains will come and we will get a bit of rest, and we can all meet at the Oregon State Beekeepers Association's annual conference, October 27–29. Mark your calendars! The conference will be held in Bend at the Riverhouse Hotel and will offer an amazing array of presenters, bringing you the latest in research results and offering beekeeping strategies. This is your chance to come together with other beekeepers from around the state to share knowledge, experiences, and questions. Share this news with your beekeeping friends—or even those just thinking about becoming a beekeeper. Attend and soak up the knowledge and excitement about beekeeping that envelopes this conference. You can find the online registration form on the OSBA website, [orsba.org](http://orsba.org). You can even book your hotel room from the website. I hope to see you all in October! *Joe Maresh*

### The 2023 OSBA Honey Show

How Sweet It Is! Plan ahead now to enter your “products from the hive” in one of the main events at the Fall Conference, the OSBA Honey Show, where you can show everyone what your bees did this year. Not only can you bring your wonderful honey, candles, and more, but also consider joining in the photography and cooking contests! We will accept Honey Show entries Friday evening and Saturday morning at the conference. Watch for signage.

The honey cooking contest this year will feature the ever-popular *cookie*. Your entry must include at least one-dozen “predominantly honey” cookies. Recipe must accompany entry, and the winner will be published in *The Bee Line*. We will be sharing cookies with attendees after judging. The theme for the photography competition is “Find the Humor in Beekeeping.” Photographs will be judged by People's Choice on Saturday afternoon. One of the newer classes is the Specific Honey Variety. Only one (1-pound) jar is necessary to join this competition. This contest is judged primarily on the trueness of its variety (i.e., sweet clover, meadowfoam, blackberry, maple, fireweed, alfalfa, or other).

Awards are announced Saturday evening, following the banquet. All honey entered into the Honey Show is expected to be auctioned during the conference, unless otherwise stipulated. The proceeds received through the Honey Show auction are used for future cash prizes, ribbons, and Honey

Show promotion. Please plan to donate all or at least one of your entries for the honey auction on Sunday.

Below are the Class descriptions for your review. For more information, please contact me at [bonjking@gmail.com](mailto:bonjking@gmail.com). See you at the Conference!

*Bonnie King*

### Class Descriptions

#### Class #1: Comb Honey

1. Comb honey, any one variety (3 round sections)
2. Comb honey, any one variety (3 square sections)

#### Class #2: Extracting Frames

1. Full deep, any one variety (3 frames)
2. Shallow, any one variety (3 frames)
3. Western, any one variety (3 frames)
4. Semi, any one variety (3 frames)

#### Class #3: Extracted Liquid Honey

Three 1-pound queenline jars

1. White
2. Amber
3. Dark

#### Class #4: Specific Honey Variety (extracted)

One 1-pound queenline jar. Specify variety from list: sweet clover, meadowfoam, blackberry, maple, fireweed, alfalfa, or other.

1. All varieties: State variety and location of bloom.

#### Class #5: Other Honey

1. Creamed Honey (3 pint jars of your choice)
2. Chunk Comb Honey (3 pint jars of your choice)

#### Class #6: Block Beeswax

1. Natural or Sun-bleached wax, 1-pound minimum

#### Class #7: Artistic Beeswax / Candles

1. Artistic beeswax: 100% beeswax. Entries can be several pieces, but must be fastened together. Entries can be of different shades of wax, i.e., brood wax or capping wax. No artificial enhancements.
2. Beeswax candles: 100% beeswax. 1-5 pounds (large single or several singles)

#### Class #8: Honey Cookies

Bring at least one-dozen “predominantly honey” cookies. Recipe must accompany entry, and it will be published via *The Bee Line*. We will be sharing cookies with attendees after judging.

1. Any type of cookies using honey “predominantly”

#### Class #9: Beekeeping Photo (People's Choice Award)

Photo Theme: “Find the Humor in Beekeeping”

1. Entries must be in an 8" x 10" narrow black frame.
2. Please describe the photo and include location.

#### Minimum Quantities

- Comb Honey sections - 3 square or 3 round

- Extracting Frames - 3 frames (each class)
- Extracted Honey - 3 standard, uniform “queenline” 1-pound honey jars (no pint jars or canning jars)
- All Other Honey (Creamed and Chunk Honey) - 3 pint jars of your choice
- Photos - 8" x 10" photo, narrow black frame

**Show Awards**

- Best of Show: \$100
- Sweepstakes: \$75
- Photography: \$50
- 1st Place: Blue Ribbon
- 2nd Place: Red Ribbon
- 3rd Place: White Ribbon
- Best of Class: \$10 (x10)

**To Affiliate or Not, “That Is the Question”**

Oregon State Beekeepers Association has just welcomed our newest affiliated group as part of our organization. A warm welcome to the Wallowa County Beekeepers group. They meet in Enterprise, Oregon, every other month beginning in February. Call Nelda Murri for details at (509) 540-4733.

Why is affiliation for your group important to the OSBA as well as being important to your group? It covers insurance for your group events. Your affiliation fee covers the extra insurance expense that the OSBA pays toward our policy. This amount is equal to \$1 per member from the previous year. So, if your highest number of members to your group were 100 in 2023,

in 2024 you would pay a fee of \$100. You also must have 5 paid members of both your organization and the OSBA. Beyond helping with insurance expenses, however, is the idea that the more beekeepers the OSBA has, the more power we have, and the better equipped we are to manage our organization as well as situations that might arise with bees.

Also, with affiliation comes a seat on the Executive Board of the OSBA, with meetings four times annually. Your opinion counts and helps to keep strength in our executive board. For 2024 I will be taking over for Rosanna Mattingly as Affiliations Director. She has done an amazing job of putting this program together and running it for years and deserves a break.

My goal is to send out our packet early enough for you to gather your association members, determine those who are also OSBA members and get their contact information, calculate your highest number of association members for the previous year (in this case 2023), fill out the form, and send it back to me with your check for affiliation made out to Oregon State Beekeepers Association. Our deadline has always been January 15 of each year, and will remain the same for 2024. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [jan.lohman55@gmail.com](mailto:jan.lohman55@gmail.com).

*Jan Lohman*

**CLASSIFIED AD**

**Warre hive, Tigard area, ISO established beekeeper.** Purpose — permanent long-term relationship. Call Paul Maresh at (503) 708-6883 for details.

**A Favorite Honey Bee Plant: September**

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

Scientific name: *Symphotrichum subspicatus*  
Common name: Douglas aster  
Portland-area bloom time: August, September, October

My neighborhood in NE Portland has, in the last decade or so, experienced an explosion of new houses built on lots where the existing house was scraped (isn't that a good word to describe what happens?) and usually two houses (but in some cases up to six rowhouses) are built on the 50-by-100-foot lot. This scraping occurred ten years ago across the street from our house, but not only to the house, but to three large native trees (a bigleaf maple, a hemlock, and an Oregon white oak). The neighbors and I were extremely disappointed, but our disappointment didn't end there. That is because the developer, after agreeing to replace those trees with ones the neighborhood tree team suggested, dropped the ball and planted, instead, five Bradford pears, which offer really nothing to either pollinators or those who live across the street. I was so livid that (a few months later, when the house still hadn't yet sold), even in the light of day, I marched across the street and planted Douglas



asters along the barren and unplanted strip of soil along the sidewalk fence. I've enjoyed watching the plants survive, thrive, be whacked back, and finally interspersed with some of the current homeowner's own choice of plants.

The Douglas aster is native to Oregon (and much of the West Coast) and does pretty well in drought conditions, though it grows larger with more blooms if offered occasional supplemental water. It also salves, somewhat, the worn nerves of crestfallen neighbors . . .

## Tentative Conference Agenda

### Friday, October 27

1:00–5:30 PM **Registration, Submit Auction Items, Submit Honey Show Entries, Submit Photo Entries, Submit Cookie 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 Master Beekeeper 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

7:00–8:20 AM **Submit Honey Show Entries, Photo Entries, Cookie Entries**

7:00–10:00 AM **Exhibitor Move-In**

7:00 AM–5:00 PM **Registration, Submit Auction Items**  
(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 **Exhibitor Tradeshow Open** (Conference Center, Lobby)

10:00–10:30 AM **Group Break in Exhibitor Tradeshow**  
(Conference Center, Lobby)—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)

**The Biggest Bee Plant Network in the WORLD and Why It Matters to You**

Andony Melathopoulos, Oregon Bee Project

1:40–2:40 PM **Enhance Honey Sales Through Self-Education**

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 Exhibitor Tradeshow**  
Sponsored by: TBD

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

4:40–4:55 PM **Is It Feasible to Create a Statewide Pesticide Monitoring Network?** (Location TBD)  
Emily Carlson, OSU Graduate Student

5:00–5:15 PM **Honey Bee Pollination of Day-Neutral Strawberries Grown in Tunnels** (Location TBD)

Joussy Hidrobo Chavez, OSU Graduate Student

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 **Promoting Honey Across the Nation: Tips and Tricks to Include in Your Promotion and a Recap of 2023 Promotions**

Selena Rampolla, American Honey Queen

### Sunday, October 29

7:00–8:00 AM **Registration** (Conference Center, Lobby)

7:00 AM–12:20 PM **Exhibitor 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 Exhibitor Tradeshow, Submit Tradeshow Passport at Registration Desk**  
(Conference Center, Lobby)—Sponsored by: TBD

10:50 AM–12:20 PM Breakout Sessions (Choose one):

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

Amina Harris, UC Davis Honey and Pollination Center



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## 2. All About Honey Bee Live-Removals, Cutouts, and Relocations (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 OSU Honey Bee Lab Services for Beekeepers and Overview of Current Research

Ramesh Sagili, OSU Honey Bee Lab

1:40–2:10 PM **Honey Auction**

## 2:30 PM Final Comments, Tradeshow Passport Prizes & Adjourn

Joe Maresh & Jeremy Mitchell, OSBA

**Note:** See <https://orsba.org/2023-fall-conference/> for updates!

## Keeping Bees in September

Ken Ograin

This year September finds us with a cornucopia of fruit and vegetables, last year pears and apples on my property were few and far between. Blueberry bushes this year were laden with so much fruit my neighbors put up 70 quarts off of six plants and still left plenty for the birds, thanks to a healthy population from mason bees. This year mother nature is providing a bountiful harvest.

The interesting thing, even with the great weather compared to last year, my hives provided an average of 45 pounds of honey—same as last year.

Yellowjacket workers are in full force scavenging for food to feed the nests as the queens are laying workers in force. Now is the time to put out bait stations. This will knock out those nests before they have a chance to produce queens for next year. I am hoping September is close to normal when it comes to honey bees and mites. Honey bees should be producing winter fat bees, and Varroa populations should be decreasing, provided you have been controlling mites.

Hives see several pressures this month, probably more so than any time of the year: Varroa, weather, food sources, and yellowjackets to name a few. Let's hope we do not have the fires and/or smoke. So, I will cover them one at a time. These are all things you as a person managing one or hundreds of colonies can do. Do not think you can put them off until next month.

**\*Mites** are your and my number one problem year around; if you, like many of us, treated your hives when you pulled those honey supers, you may have a false sense of well-being. When was the last time you did a mite count? Over the past several years now, I have seen a sharp increase in Varroa mites around the end of the month, and this is the time your hive will be producing those fat winter bees to get them through winter and into early spring. So, do not stop mite checks just because you treated already.

If you need help with deciding which treatment is best for you, get all the information you need in one place. You will find it at the Honey Bee Health Coalition website: <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/>, including Varroa Management Decision Tool, *Tools for Varroa*

*Management* (8th edition), and informative videos.

**\*Weather** is one of those things we have no control over, and we have been having more days with temperature in 80s and 90s. We can help the bees by supplying some kind of water source; you may have to experiment to find a source that your bees will use. Over the past 20 or so years, I have tried many of them—from a pond to bird baths to no end. As it turns out, they like my wife's flower pots and my lawn sprinklers, so we have added several saucers with lava rocks. For the last few weeks, we have needed to add water to these dishes several times a day; if they go dry, the bees will let us know.

**\*Food sources** will soon be getting harder for your bees to find in many parts of the state; keep an eye on your hive entrance and, if you see a lack of activity or no pollen coming in, it may be necessary to supply them sugar syrup and protein (real pollen is the best protein). If your hive has a scale, it is easy to see when there is no nectar coming in as bees will be consuming their honey stores. I doubt we will see temperature getting down into the 50s, but, if we do, keep in mind that bees will not be taking up sugar syrup. Keep checking your hives' weight by hefting the back of hive; there should be time to build up hive food stores before consistent cold temperatures arrive. If you have screen bottoms, you can use the sample board to confirm they are consuming food stores (yellow wax bits on your sample board).

**\*Yellowjackets** may become a problem, depending on where you live. They can be very damaging to colonies, but they are everywhere. If you think you do not have them, go out to your hive very early in the day as yellowjackets fly at lower temperatures than honey bees. Traps and entrance reducers will help, but a strong population of healthy bees is your best defense. You may be using robber screens. If you are using the simple UC Davis one, they do not work to deter yellowjackets; so, if you are using the robber screen, put in an entrance reducer in addition to your screen. This will help those guard bees defend.

**\*One last thing: Work your hives safely.** Keep in mind fire danger when using your smoker. Overheating in that bee suit can happen fast, so bring water and keep hydrated. Let someone know where you are if you need to work alone and carry a cell phone.

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## OSBA Executive Meeting Minutes July 12, 2023

Present: Joe Maresh, Jeremy Mitchell, Becca Fain, Barbara Derkacht, Brad York, Jan Lohman, Jason Rowan, Lorena Corzatt, Max Kuhn, Mike Rodia, Nathan Richard, Rick Olson, Steve Oda

Before the meeting, Brad York shared a video of the concept of the Tillamook Beekeepers' apiary. There is an event July 15 to share and show off this lovely project to both beekeepers and the public.

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 by President Joe Maresh.

### Treasurer's Report

The complete report was sent to the committee. In short, OSBA has \$88,890.64 on hand, some of which needs to be moved to the research fund. Additionally, receivables has a significant amount that still needs to come in. Initial payments have been made to the conference venue.

Becca Fain initiated a phone call that included her, our accountant, and a representative from the IRS questioning the fees and interest for late submissions of tax paperwork. According to the IRS rep, OSBA has gotten similar bills in the past, and while this particular bill is less than others, Becca intends that there will be no late reports in the future, nor will we be asking for extensions.

Barbara Derkacht moved and Lorena Corzatt seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Since copies of the minutes were sent out with the meeting invitation, Becca Fain moved and Steve Oda seconded a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. Motion carried.

Brad York moved and Becca Fain seconded a motion to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

### Grants and Foundations – Jan Lohman

Most changes in totals in these monies are a reflection of stock market fluctuations.

NW Apiculture Fund Endowment Fund for Honey Bee Research, Ext & Ed

4100-16029	\$10,483.48	6/30
6220-16029	\$100,731.42	6/30

OSU Apiculture Endowment Fund

4100-16032	\$37,084.19	6/30
6220-16032	\$74,831.01	6/30

Dr. Herman A Scullen Memorial Entomology Fund (a fellowship for students studying bees)

4100-19805	\$ 6,972.07	6/30
6220-19805	\$73,143.57	6/30

Ramesh reported that ODA is considering a sliding scale for bee hive registrations, with fees going up particularly for hobbyists. Currently hobby beekeepers only pay \$0.50/hive. Commercial beekeepers' rates would remain the same. For any change to take place, the matter must go through the Legislature. Joe will contact hobby and commercial beekeepers for input. ODA apparently wants OSBA's blessing before changes are made.

### Activities Report – Bonnie King

Bonnie was not able to attend the meeting, but sent in a report. While the picnic was fun, it was not heavily attended. It was suggested that in the future the picnic could move around among the various regions of the state. An association could take responsibility for the event and perhaps combine it with their own picnic. OSBA would support this effort, and Bonnie would help with publicity and organization. Lorena volunteered her group as host for next year's picnic.

A newsletter article about this would generate interest and inclusion. While the date is fairly open and is flexible, people need to know the when and where so they can plan.

**Agriculture Liaison Report** as Harry Vanderpool was not in attendance, there was no report.

### Residential Beekeeping – Mike Rodia

Mike encouraged everyone to look for an article in The BeeLine about the Brownsville City Council meeting after a ban on bees and beekeeping in the city was adopted. Mike attended one of their subsequent meetings and handed out packets of bee information, Oregon laws, samples of rules and regulations in other small Oregon towns. He then made a presentation to the council which resulted in a stay of the resolution. Kudos to Mike for his educational efforts supporting bees and beekeeping!

### Old Business

- **Donation to OSU** from the 2022 conference: \$14,000 which is about \$6,000 more than was previously donated.
  - Ramesh has requested that no more money be given at this time.
  - Save the Bee – 2024 annual plan to fund raise to cover half of the endowment needed to cover the OSU department chair position. Question: should OSBA money go to funding the chair position or to the fund Ramesh has access to? No resolution to this question at this time.
  - OSBA gave \$2,000 to Bee Informed Partnership; \$2,000 to Project ApisM; \$1,000 to WSU; and \$1,000 to Andony.
- **Conference Report – Jeremy Mitchell**
  - The speakers are all lined up.
  - Allen Engle gets a star for getting volunteers from their group to help with the conference.
  - Advertisers, vendors, and sponsors have been contacted and results are coming in.
  - Program information is being sent to Rosanna for printing.
  - A suggestion for a band for entertaining is needed. Matt Allen is hunting around.
  - Each association has been asked to assist with the auction by offering two packages of something enticing. Becca is going to contact each president to ask for help with this. Brad York notes that there are a number of fisher people in his group, so perhaps one of those would offer a fishing trip. Lorena Corzatt could offer a canoeing adventure.
  - Andony is donating two bee license plates, and George will give two of his paintings.

### Association Presidents' Reports

- The once-a-month meetings of this group are going well.
- Lorena Corzatt (Klamath Basin Beekeepers) reports that in her area there have been few swarms; lots of people are learning about sugar shake mite testing; and she was

called upon to do a rescue at a truck stop.

- o Brad York (Tillamook Beekeepers) told more about his group's apiary open house. The group has spent \$20,000 creating this space. They offer weekly 'hive dives' every Saturday and have lots of bee suits so people from age 3 on up can participate. He was encouraged to share pictures of the open house with OSBA for the website and also for The BeeLine.

- o Steve Oda (Linn Benton Beekeepers) reported on their annual field day at Oak Creek Apiary at OSU. This was attended by lots of new beekeepers. Becca added that Andony can do a hands-on experience.

- o Barbara Derkacht (Portland Metro Beekeepers) reported that their annual Bee Day was fine and fun – though hot and breezy, and their participation with a booth at the Master Gardener Sale at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds was also a fine time for both beekeepers and those wandering by the booth.

- o Max Kuhn (Central Coast Beekeepers) reported that his group had a table at Waldport Library's pollinator garden and in addition had a table at the Lincoln County Fair for three days.

- **Specialty Crop Block Grant for AV equipment**

- o Carolyn Breece clarified that OSBA needs to buy a projector and screen which will be used at least once by the bilingual Master Beekeeper Program. OSU will reimburse OSBA for this purchase.

- o Jeremy Mitchell and Bonnie King selected the items for this purchase; now they need to be ordered.

- **Jason Rowan, the new nominations chairperson**, was introduced. Jason requests that people who are moving away from their OSBA positions to please let him know, so others can be recruited.

**New Business**

- **Wallowa County group** – Joe Maresh was contacted by this group, asking if they could become an affiliated association. Joe brought the matter to this group. Becca moved and Lorena seconded a motion that the Wallowa County Beekeepers be allowed to become an affiliated association. Motion carried.

- **Jan Lohman is taking over the affiliation job that Rosanna has been doing.** Jan will write something for The BeeLine regarding the Wallowa County group and run the article past Joe and Becca before submitting it.

- **Changes/updates to the constitution** must be done and presented to the membership by Sept. 1. Voting on any changes would take place at the general meeting at the conference.

- **Wild Apricot**

- o It has been suggested that OSBA buy a subscription to Wild Apricot that could handle conference registration, messages to the membership, auctions, merchandise (if we had something to sell), web page, a members-only section. In the long run, it looks like a move to this platform would save us money.

- o However, it was also pointed out that Wild Apricot doesn't run itself. We would need a website manager and someone to manage Wild Apricot and its data input.

- o Question: to avoid redundancy, who is going to be our webmaster? Joe will talk with Rosanna about this.

- o A committee of people familiar with Wild Apricot was formed to sort this all out. Joe Maresh, Brad York, Becca Fain, Paul Stromberg volunteered and Debbie Garman will be asked to join as she, too, has familiarity with Wild Apricot.

- **State Fair** – Bonnie King is working on this.

- **ABF Membership** – While Becca can find no evidence that OSBA has been paying for a membership to ABF, we are listed as members on the Bronze level. She will further investigate to see if someone is paying for us.

- o It was suggested that as some (most?) of the benefits of membership beyond the Bronze level would not be very useful to OSBA.

- o The one benefit that OSBA could use would be to send a delegate to the ABF conference. The discussion was tabled to see the direction ABF is taking.

- **Pollinator Resource** – discussion about adding something of this sort to the website was tabled.

**Next Meeting** – a very SHORT meeting will be held Sept. 6 at 6 PM to discuss constitutional changes and Wild Apricot.

Becca Fain moved and Barbara Derkacht seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:09.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Derkacht



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## BEEKEEPER EVENTS

## — 2023 —

August 25–September 4: **Oregon State Fair**. Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center. Salem. *Information:* [oregonstatefair.org/#](https://oregonstatefair.org/#).

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.westernapiculturalandsociety.org/2023conference>.

October 7–8: **WASBAPacificNorthwestBeekeepingConference**. Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake, Olympia WA. *Information:* <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wasba-pacific-northwest-beekeeping>

[conference-tickets-549671541377](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wasba-pacific-northwest-beekeeping).

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: Honey show, page 3; Agenda, page 5; Registration, page 15.

**OSBA Conference Deadlines**

- September 27—last day for discounted registration rate and on-site hotel costs
- October 13—last day for registration refunds
- October 14—last day for registration by mail

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 how things go!

## REGIONAL NEWS

## Regional Representatives

## North Coast

Oh, boy. Here comes the dearth. We knew it was coming, but it's always a shock to see how fast the floral environment dries up. The blackberry flowers are gone and berries are ripening and there is nothing else out there for the bees to forage on. Because of that, bees are more protective of their resources. I have a few hives that are getting spicy and won't calm down no matter how much smoke I give them.

To get them through the dearth, I've been feeding all my colonies sugar syrup. The upside is that slow colonies have perked up and are beginning to flourish with a 1:1 syrup mixture. This should get them through August when the English ivy and Japanese knotweed come in. It also gives a head start on growing a strong population of winter bees—the long-lived bees that make it through the winter to begin caring for the colony when the spring buildup begins.

Now that the berries are ripening, I've seen bear sign around the apiary. I've got the biggest solar power electric fencer I could find, and it seems to be working. I've only had one problem in the past when I didn't replace the



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battery right away after it went dead. The bears figured it out and broke through the fence, tore off the side of my greenhouse, and destroyed two colonies. If you live on the coast, remember the bears are always watching and testing your defenses.

All supers are off now and treatments can begin. Most of my colonies have low Varroa counts, but a couple have exploded. One went from a 1% count up to 12% in just four weeks. Two pads of formic went on immediately. Hopefully, I can get the mite levels down and keep them down with a follow-up treatment of ApiGuard. Finally, I'm combining all weak colonies with stronger hives. I've been babying a couple trying save them but a few just won't respond to individual attention. Bees! Sometimes they just don't appreciate all our hard work we do on their behalf.

*Rick Olson*

### Central Oregon

I hope, by the time this is published, that the fire danger and smoke for all of our folks have diminished! Historically, our likelihood of frost in Central Oregon starts September 7. And we all start thinking about going out and covering the tender plants in our pajamas each night until the Indian summer starts. By September, all the native forage plants are pretty much gone. There are still some domestic flowers in town, but for the most part, we are doing a lot of last-minute feeding. This summer, with the longer periods of heat and dry, we're hearing, anecdotally, that with the heat and drought on the east side of the Cascades quite a few beekeepers experienced a dearth during August, especially in the native environments. It'll be interesting to hear from our members whether that occurred in town as well.

We've re-instated our photo contest and will be presenting the winners at our September meeting. We're always excited to see how much talent there is in our membership. Our September will also probably be a potluck, primarily about just visiting with our fellow beekeepers. In August, we heard about using different pieces of technology in the hive . . . May be the future. Looking forward to seeing you at the OSBA conference here in Bend in October.

*Allen Engle*

### Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Association

We've been eeking away this year as an association. We have a small group of bee-interested residents, but not many educators in our group right now. We're assisting the new folks with their beekeeping adventures and answering swarm calls throughout the county. We were looking forward to participating in the county fair this year with our observation hive, but a COVID exposure at our meeting just prior to the fair knocked us out of participating. We all had to (or were supposed to) "isolate" for 10 days and see what happened. I don't think anyone came down with COVID from the "exposure," but it ruined our opportunity to participate in the fair. Now, our sights are on next year . . . again!

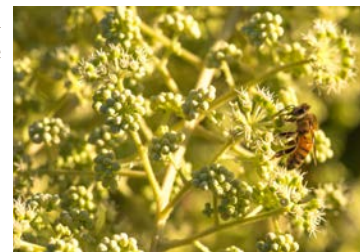
*Jesse Fletcher*

### Portland Metro Beekeepers Association

Honey, honey, and more honey for Oregon beekeepers! Weather in the Willamette Valley began with a wet spring; however, sunshine and warmer temperatures in late April into May helped the bigleaf maple bloom. With plenty of moisture in the ground, we had abundant blackberry blossoms and rain did not interrupt June and July, resulting in an exceptional nectar flow. Association members report an increase in honey extraction of over 20%

compared to years past, many harvesting bigleaf maple for the first time . . . so sweet is beekeeping :)

In our garden honey bees are all over the *Aralia elata* tree for nectar and pollen and Russian sage. Also frequenting purple oregano, pineapple lily, borage,



California poppy, coneflower, aster, blanket flower, and brown-eyed susan. West of the Cascades, fall begins in August

and the timing of our fall inspection should be mid-August to Labor Day. It is recommended that we position food reserves now to allow bees to fill top brood boxes with honey stores for the winter and center bottom box with brood. Adequate adult bee population, healthy brood and bees are needed for the long winter ahead. Nutrition remains a priority as the colony prepares fat bees with lengthened life span. As nectar and pollen sources fade, we supplement feed. We are vigilant with our IPM management strategies for mites, which leaves time for seasonally effective mite treatment, and make sure our colonies are queen right/requeened for tougher seasons ahead.

Our August lecture was with Jan Lohman (Vazza Farms, Inc), an experienced commercial beekeeper instrumental in the start of the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program. She served on the board for the OSBA and is deeply involved in the implementation of many Oregon beekeeping programs. She emphasized that "timing is everything" and keeping a calendar for bee-related responsibilities is critical. Her presentation reminded us of the invaluable hard work commercial beekeepers provide, starting in February with pollination of almonds in California through buckwheat in August, and of the three reasons for colony failure: Varroa, starvation, and queen failure—"Know your Varroa levels." Carolyn Breece, a senior research assistant at the OSU Honey Bee Lab, will be speaking in September.

We had a busy swarm season, and our swarm hotline is now closed until March 2024. Our annual picnic is August 12, with a bbq and beekeeping prizes. Our online store is busy with queen, sugar, and honey jar sales. Our Saturday in the apiary tour concluded at Troy Gooding's residence with a great turn out. We have volunteers for both the Clackamas County Fair and Oregon State Fair, so please drop by and visit.

*Sandi Collis*

### Portland Urban Beekeepers Association

As summer winds down, PUB continues to focus on new and intermediate beekeepers who are looking for in-person connection and developing skills. Our last member meeting highlighted honey extraction as well as bottling and labeling. There was good discussion on a wide variety of topics, and people really seem to be enjoying the switch to in-person meetings. It's also nice to be back in the Multnomah Friends meetinghouse where we met pre-pandemic. As a way of focusing on the needs of learning beekeepers, the board decided to sync monthly meeting presentations with the yearly cycle of the bees and what keepers should be doing. In this way, we'll keep our presentations relevant to what's happening in the hive at that

time, and we'll be more intentional about our speakers, their topics, and relevancy to our local beekeeping patterns.

One practice that was new to me this year was mead making. I've never thought much about it aside from an occasional cloyingly syrupy sip at a Renaissance Faire in the early 2000s. This year my college-age son came home with an interest in making it, and I gave him the greenlight. It turned out to be a fun and interesting project! I was impressed with how fast the finished product was ready (we were drinking it within 10 days) and enjoyed the variety of the flavors (he made a plain version and one with some berries). They were pleasantly not that sweet and tasted more like alcoholic cider than I expected. They had a nice soft carbonation and have lasted several weeks. If you've ever considered making some (or never did!), it's worth a try. Recipes are easily found on the Internet, are simple to follow, and there is a wide margin of error in the process. It also doesn't use up nearly as much honey as I thought—each batch used only two cups of honey, so I still have plenty for my biscuits.

Jessica Anderson

### Tillamook Beekeepers Association

The Tillamook Beekeepers Association had a very busy July. We held the Grand Opening of the Apiary and Garden Learning Center on July 15, and it was well attended. We have attracted



some new members as well as donations. Much work has gone into this project since March, and we are very proud of the apiary, fencing, storage shed, trees, paths, signs, and parking lot. The intention is to have a place for teaching new beekeepers and the public about fascinating bees and their needs, and we are already achieving that.

On Saturday mornings we have a Hive Dive to do necessary duties at the apiary and invite all members to participate and learn. We have had several family groups schedule with us or just make an appearance at the apiary, and we enjoy showing them the world of bees. The Tillamook County Fair is August 9–12, and TBA will have a big presence there with an observation hive, honey sales, craft sales, and public education. Our hives are thriving, and we are positioning them for the upcoming winter. We are testing for mites and treating, and putting on robbing screens as the blackberry blooms are fading. Honey accumulation is not the goal of our apiary, but the bees have their own agenda, and we are dealing with honey frame extraction. Most of the Tillamook areas will have a honey flow from Japanese knotweed in September. Queen rearing is finally looking up and we will be making decisions about requeening.



Patsy Weber

### Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association

We offered an educational session on queen banking at the end of June and a fourth 2023 field day for members on Sunday August 20. It was well-attended and great details about autumn and winter colony care were offered as part of a hands-

on field day with colony inspections.

We enjoyed an excellent educational presentation from Mark Johnson at our August member meeting and are excited to host Dr. Sammy Ramsey for our September 26 meeting. We expect to enjoy our annual members' honey tasting session in October.

Debby Garman

### Umpqua Valley Beekeepers Association

Beneath the canopy of trees, the hum of bees brings peace. They begin to gather the necessary resources to endure the looming lash of winter. As I ponder the beauty of instinct, I ask myself, "Have I done all I can for them?" Their instinct tells me, I needn't worry, unless my equipment is brought to a splinter. The foreshadow of what winter will bring raises a lot of questions for us all. New and experienced beekeepers alike share the same worry of proper overwintering. We will definitely be discussing this more in our upcoming meetings.

Our sign is up at our Butterfly Garden in Stewart Park! The garden is lush with life



and bursting with flowers! A pollinator playground for sure! We are tending to the garden under the vision of the

City of Roseburg's Horticulturist, Hailey Malone. We have had three beautifying events so far this year.

During our August meeting, a local guest beekeeper brought in a miniature model of a Langstroth and Layens hive. He went over the different components of each, and some of the pros and cons of each. He also had some examples of different foundation and frame options he has used over the years, particularly with the Layens hive. The models he built are constructed with great attention to detail. They are beautifully done! We also spoke about some of the honey extraction equipment that is used and had it out for display.

The Umpqua Valley Farmers Market Pollinator Appreciation Day was a great success! A scavenger hunt for the kids was set up. They needed to find ten crocheted bees throughout the market. When their card was filled, they returned to our booth to exchange it for a honey stick (purchased from another vendor at the market). We had a great crowd that day! At the time of this writing . . . it's Fair Week! We are excited and in a bustle to get our booth decorated for the longest event of the year! Our new observation hives are populated and ready! Our volunteer roster filled up in record time for this glorious event!

We hosted a presentation for the Lower Umpqua Library in Reedsport with more adults present than children. Everyone brought questions for the "Stump the Beekeeper" portion of the event. We had a very good turnout for our "Intro to Beekeeping, an In-Hive Experience" Beeks Academy Event, hosted by Kent Wallace and taught by Ivory Los Banos! We have a "Honey Extraction Workshop" scheduled for August 19, hosted by Kelly Heard. Stay tuned for more!

Adrian Aramburu

## Oregon State Beekeepers Association

## 2023 Fall Conference Registration Form

Early registration discount ends  
September 27, 2023!

October 27, 28 & 29, 2023

Online registration link: REGISTRATION  
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Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*email: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*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: _____	\$
TOTAL <sup>5,6</sup>			\$

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](https://orsba.org).



Oregon State Beekeepers Association  
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd Ste 517  
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### September Is National Honey Month

What a fine month for taking time to appreciate *golden goodness*.

Let us know how you celebrate!

---

## 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 **October 2023** issue. The deadline for submitting copy is **September 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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