



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

In this Issue

Board of Directors	2
Message from our President	3
Executive Meeting Minutes	4
PNW Honeybee Survey	5
Bee Plant of the Month	6
Classifieds	6
Keeping Bees This Month	7
At the ABF Conference	8
Regional Reports	10 - 17
Events	17
Yellow-Legged Hornet	18
Activity	19

OSBA

Find us [online](#) and on [Facebook](#)
communications@orsba.org



A Joint Venture of OSBA and the
OSU Extension Service.

info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org



Daphne Odora Blooming in South Willamette Valley

Photo by Pam Leavitt

OSBA OFFICERS

President

Joe Maresh—503.703.5060; joemaresh@bctonline.com

Vice President

Tom Cinquini—503.547.5386; tomcinquini@gmail.com

Secretary

Barbara Derkacht—503.631.3063; bderkacht@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Becca Fain—541.997.3792; rfain18@gmail.com

Past President

John Jacob—541.582.2337; oldsolbees@gmail.com**OSBA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

North Coast

Rick Olson—541.991.7946; mowgli667@yahoo.com

South Coast

Mureen Walker—541.373.7997; mureen98@gmail.com

Columbia Basin

Bill Edwards—541.354.2223; bfamily@live.com

Eastern Oregon

Jordan Dimock—541.372.2726

Portland Metro

Amanda (Mandy) Shaw—503.740.2913;
beekeeperconfidential@gmail.com

South Central Oregon

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

Southwestern Oregon

Andrew Watson—
boradabeedoc@gmail.com

North Willamette Valley

Nathan Richard—
mnrmrichard@gmail.com

South Willamette Valley

Pam Leavitt—
pamseaver2000@yahoo.com**AFFILIATED REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Central Coast Beekeepers Association

Meets 1:30 pm, fourth Wednesday, Newport
President: Jeremy Egolf—jeremyregolf@gmail.com
ccbaor.org

Central Oregon Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:00 pm, third Tuesday, Bend
President: Clyde Dildine—clyde@tlcinc.com
cobeekkeeping.org

Columbia County Oregon Beekeepers

Meets 6:00 pm, first Thursday, St. Helens
President: Linda Zahl—
columbiacountyoregonbeekeepers@gmail.com

Columbia Gorge Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:15 pm, third Wednesday, Hood River
President: Vance Ellett - ellettconst@gorge.net
gorgebeekeepers.org

Coos Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:00 pm, 2nd Monday, Myrtle Point
President: Ann Marineau—annmarineau@gmail.com

Klamath Basin Beekeepers Association

Meets 9:00 am, last Saturday, Klamath Falls
President: Lorena Corzatt—president@klamathbeekeepers.org
klamathbeekeepers.org

Lane County Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:30 pm, third Tuesday, Eugene
President: Fonta Molyneaux—wildeverlastingfarm@gmail.com
lcbaoor.org

Linn Benton Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:30 pm, third Wednesday, Corvallis
President: Steve Oda—steve@lbba.us 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: Jesse Fletcher—beekeeperscoastal@gmail.com

Portland Metro Beekeepers Association

Meets 7:00 pm, second Thursday, Happy Valley
President: Paul Stromberg—president@portlandmetrobeekeepers.org
portlandmetrobeekeepers.org

Portland Urban Beekeepers

Meets 7:00 pm, first Wednesday, Portland
President: Brian Wagstaff—brianwagstaff@gmail.com
portlandurbanbeekeepers.org

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:30 pm, first Monday, Central Point
President: Noah Clipp—noahclipp@gmail.com
southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Tillamook Beekeepers Association

Meets 11:30 am, second Saturday, Tillamook
President: Brad York—dbradleyyork@gmail.com
tillamookbeekeepers.org

Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:00 pm, last Tuesday, virtually-North Plains
President: Bradley Anderson—brawnand@hotmail.com
tvbabees.org

Umpqua Valley Beekeepers Association

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

Wallowa County Beekeepers Association

Meets 6:30 pm, last W (F,A,J,A); first W (N), Enterprise
President Bre Austin—austin.breanne@gmail.com

Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association

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

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello OSBA members,

It appears that winter is slowly loosening its grip on us, just be careful. This is when hives can starve because the bees are starting to build up and then the weather turns and the bees run out of resources. Most of my commercial beekeeping friends are back home from placing bees in almonds waiting to see what the almond bloom brings before they go back to California and make splits and prepare to bring bees home.


The officers of the OSBA are working diligently to implement changing the way we do our membership (switching over to Wild Apricot) and working on how we will be distributing the newsletter. This last issue Jan/Feb was mailed out 1st class. We did not use our non-profit bulk rate because we did not meet the minimum number of pieces of mail required. In the next few months, Amanda will be trying to collect data from the membership as to how you would like to receive the newsletter. Please when you renew or update your membership, give us as much information as possible such as email address, phone number, mailing address, and what bee associations or clubs that you are a member of. We promise not to share or publish your information without your approval. This information is important to us so that we can better serve you, the membership, and if we need to communicate with you.

Sincerely,
Joe Maresh
President, OSBA
503 703 5060



The advertisement features a vibrant yellow background. On the left, a wooden honey dipper is shown dripping with golden honey. The text 'Quality honey in quality jars...' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. To the right, the Richards logo, a stylized blue 'R' with a horizontal bar, is positioned above the word 'RICHARDS' in large, bold, blue, sans-serif capital letters. Below the logo, the text 'Visit locally in Portland or give us a call at 503-290-0000' is written in white. In the bottom right corner, three clear glass jars of different sizes are displayed. At the bottom left, the contact information for Richards Packaging is provided in white text.

Quality honey
in quality jars...


RICHARDS


Visit locally in Portland or
give us a call at 503-290-0000

Richards Packaging 9455 NE Alderwood Rd
KMcGarvey@RichardsPackaging.com

Executive Meeting Minutes January 25, 2024

Present: Joe Maresh, Becca Fain, Tom Cinquini, Rick Olson, Brad York, Linda Zahl, Lorena Corzatt, Barbara Derkacht

Website: Rick Olson reported that he’s working on the website. The swarm list piece is getting more clarity and will be easier to navigate and understand. Many old reports (especially the pollinator reports) are going to be taken out. The membership profile needs to add a swarm list data collection piece as Rick does not want to be a data entry person (!). However, he is working to keep the website up to date with classes. He will make a list of things to remove, but will keep the encaustic painting video as requested. We have a lot of pictures that could be used to enhance the site, and those are being looked at. Brad York reports that Tillamook uses many pictures on their website.

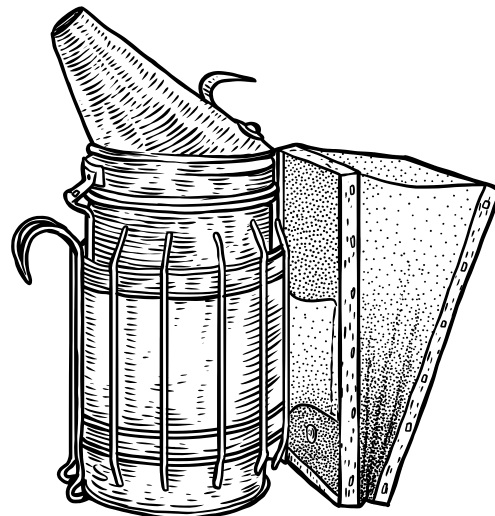
Wild Apricot website: Becca Fain reported that the website may need to be scaled back during set up to make it more cost effective. Additional information and pages can be added later. Becca is to be applauded for getting additional quotes from three companies regarding getting this set up. There is still enthusiasm for the work Site to Be Seen (Marjorie) did for the Tillamook group.

Bank Account: Brad York moved and Becca Fain seconded a motion to add Joe Maresh and Tom Cinquini to the bank account and to take John Jacobs off the account. Motion passed unanimously. This is particularly to facilitate Joe Maresh’s ability to deposit checks into the account remotely. Becca will send forms to Joe and Tom for this process.

Zoom: Becca pointed out that our cost for Zoom is at the highest level. However, we could use a YouTube channel to store conference videos and other videos at quite a savings. This would also allow associations to show these videos at club meetings. The videos could have a link to them on the website.

Newsletter: Amanda Shaw was unable to attend the meeting but sent in a report via email. Her email message: The Jan/Feb newsletter is 98% complete. Printing has not been lined up yet because we need to determine the address that will be used on our non-profit mail account (it has to match the return address printed on the mail). Becca and I are looking into The UPS Store about getting a PO box from them as well as possibly using them for our printing needs. Because of this, there may be a delay in printing. We are on track to digitally publish on time. (End of email message). However, Becca pointed out that very few people who receive the newsletter digitally actually open the link to read it. Because it is quite expensive to mail the newsletter, we need to determine how many people actually NEED to receive it via mail, how many simply WANT it mailed. Perhaps a postcard that could be returned with this information could be sent with a newsletter soon. Referencing the current membership list, this information was gleaned:

Membership year	Digital	Print	Not Indicated
2023 (not renewed)	88	68	67
2024	102	56	31
2025+	12	7	1
Life members	1	8	
Totals	203	139	99



Brad York moved and Lorena Corzatt seconded a motion to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 6:34.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Derkacht, secretary

Spring Time is Survey Time

- Dewey M. Caron

I will again be seeking the cooperation of PNW beekeepers with an annual Overwinter Loss Survey. The survey opens on March 15 and continues throughout April. Large-scale beekeepers will be mailed a single-page colony loss survey in March from OSU. We ask your cooperation to kindly fill out the survey within a month and send it back in the postage-paid envelope. If you prefer you can also complete this survey electronically. www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/survey/ click under "take the survey." The first question (number of colonies) separates larger-scale from backyard beekeepers. For individuals with 50 or fewer colonies, the survey should take 5 minutes or less – questions include information on overwintering losses and varroa management. This is the 15th – and perhaps the last – season for the PNW HoneyBeeSurvey. We appreciate your past involvement and ask that you help provide this information once again this spring.

The results are published on the same site as the survey entry. Visit <https://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/> and click on Survey results on the top bar. You can view OR and WA state results and reports for various local clubs. You might look at Figure 8 which presents loss results for the past 14 survey years. We have barely reduced overwinter losses, as provided by survey respondents in all those years – for backyard beeks from 40% to 38%; OR commercial beekeepers losses, by survey returns, have increased from 20% to 23%

2022-2023 results shown below.

Proven Queens



Thank you to all of our 2023 Park Italian Queen and Nuc customers.

2024 Single/Nucs available late April - May.
2024 Park Italian Queens available April - September.

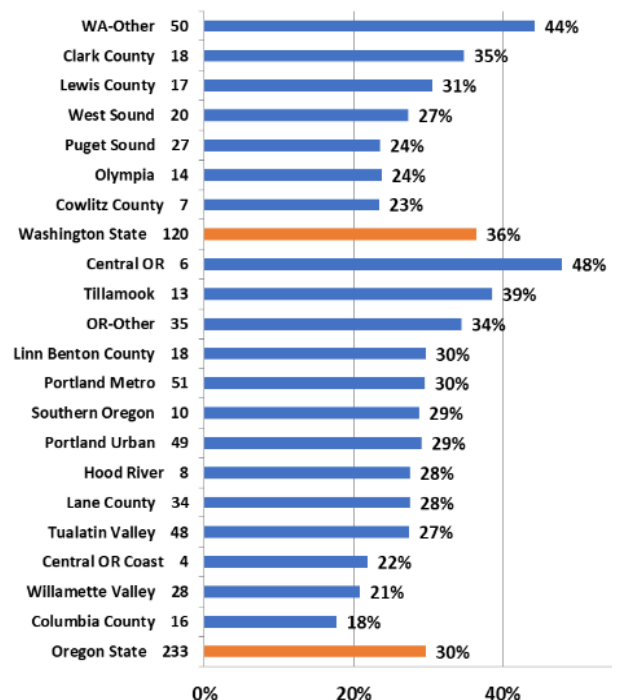


Wooten's Queens & Bees, Inc. | Steve Park Apiaries, Inc. | Wooters Bee Farms

Major Credit Cards Accepted | 888-565-8439 | order@wootensqueensbees.com
www.wootensqueensbees.com



Overwinter Honeybee Loss by Association of PNW Honeybee Survey Participants 2022-23



Favorite Bee Plant

Last spring, about this time, I had the immense pleasure of visiting Northwest Garden Nursery, located west of Eugene. The unassuming name belies what has taken place there over the past 30 years: The development of their own line of Hellebore hybrids known as Winter Jewels®. This fine work, remarkably, was almost exclusively done by the owners Marietta & Ernie O'Byrne. But they are now getting out of the breeding business, having sold the Winter Jewels® line.

Anyway, when talking to Marietta last spring, she mentioned that on those warmer and sunnier days in February and March, the bees are all over the hellebores. And that's a problem, because the O'Byrnes need to be in control of the pollen transfer to keep their line pure. So, they make darn sure the greenhouses (where the actual "breeding" takes place) remain "bee tight" and the door flaps close properly.

Last July, I received in the mail a packet of seeds taken from some of their Winter Jewels® line that grows freely outside the greenhouses around the nursery. Marietta had given me directions on sowing them (in the summer) in flats. Well, now those seeds are seedlings and I'm anxiously awaiting the time to transplant them outside...and to their blooms in 2025!

-Glen Andresen, Beekeeper & OSU Master Gardener



Scientific name: Helleborus × hybridus

Common names: Hellebore

Portland-area bloom time: Feb, Mar



FLYING BEE RANCH

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

- Protective Gear
- Bee Nutrition
- Hive Tools
- Foundation
- Woodenware
- Knowledgeable Staff
- Spring Nucs (reserve online)
- Mite Treatments, and More!



**OPEN YEAR-ROUND
TUE-SAT 9AM-5PM**

(503) 399-8409
www.FlyingBeeRanch.net
5180 Lardon Rd. NE • Salem, OR

Heitkams'
HONEY BEES INC



**Fresh
Queens**

**Italian or Carniolan
Spring - Summer - Fall
Quality Queens - Dependable Service**

We Are Selecting for Hygienic Behavior

Call or Write (530) 865-9562
4700 First Ave. Orland, CA 95963
queens@heitkamshoneybees.com

Classifieds

400+ 6 5/8 supers for sale, a mix of wood and plastic.

Please call 541-980-2727

To place a classified ad contact us at communications@orsba.org

Ads up to 30 words:

\$3.00 for members

\$5.00 for non-members



Keeping Bees This Month



Brian is a Cornell University Master Beekeeper, Washington State Master Beekeeper, and Oregon Master Beekeeper Journey Mentor

Apiary:

- Make sure hive covers are secured.
- Check for evidence of pests such as mice.
- Check the hive entrance for obstructions.
- A few dead bees and a small amount of fecal matter are normal.
- If hive moisture is suspected or a concern, increase ventilation.

IPM:

- Review the Honey Bee Health Coalition "Tools for Varroa Management" and develop your plan for this year.
- Order the cultural, organic, and any chemical supplies needed to control varroa mites.
- Order or fabricate supplies needed to sample for varroa mites.
- If you suspect you have mites (or know you did a marginal job controlling this pest), this is not the weather to open your hive and sample using alcohol wash or sugar shake. Consider treating with Apivar, which is a 42-day treatment and is removed 2 weeks before adding honey supers.

Inspection:

- Do an external inspection visual and auditory, to check the cluster. Listen for the bees with your ear directly on the upper part of the hive exterior and if you hear nothing tap the hive and the bees should respond.
- On a day of 50F with little if any wind remove the hive cover briefly for a peek, however, do not pull frames or break the cluster. You are looking for moisture and food stores.

Nutrition:

- Check the colony for food stores by gently hefting the hive.
- If you suspect food stores are needed, place a sheet of newspaper with cane sugar on top of the brood frames.
- Lane County Beekeepers (lcbaor.org) has excellent recipes for Emergency Winter Feed (fondant, candy board, and sugar patties).

Equipment:

- Order replacement bee packages or nuc's ASAP.
- Check stored equipment for wax moths.
- Repair, clean, and paint wooden ware.
- Order any equipment that is needed or anticipated.

Education:

- Enroll in a bee school, which are offered by many local Oregon bee clubs.
- Enroll in the Oregon Master Beekeeper program.
- Start attending your local bee club meetings and activities.

Membership:

- Become a member of your local bee club or renew your membership.
- Renew your membership or join the Oregon State Beekeepers Association.

Advice:

- OSU Extension Service "Ask an Expert" will provide excellent advice on your question about bees and beekeeping.
- Check with your local bee club, as they most likely have a successful, experienced beekeeper more than willing to provide guidance and advice.

- Brian Fackler

2024 American Beekeeping Federation Conference and Trade show



For more than 80 years, the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) has been representing the interests of beekeepers, large and small, and those associated with the beekeeping industry to ensure the future of the honey bee. The ABF is a membership organization that among many things hosts an annual conference and trade show in a different state every year.

This year's ABF conference and trade show was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. There's no place like New Orleans, or NOLA as the locals call it. NOLA has character that stands out from the rest with its locals that tell it like it is, hospitality, rich southern history and of course, the spirit of Mardi Gras.

The ABF conference organizers put on an excellent conference with Keynote Speakers like Dr. Frank Rinkevich from the USDA lab in Baton Rouge and Dr. Samuel Ramsey, award winning entomologist and founder of the Ramsey Research Foundation.

This year's conference had over 700 attendees from the US and around the world! I met beekeepers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, and Mexico this year! The schedule of presentations, workshops, and field trips for the conference was extensive. My favorite workshop was "Honey Judge Training." I attended this workshop with Delsey Maus of Flying Bee Ranch as we are both working to refine our skills and acquire credentials to be honey judges at future events in Oregon.

I visited the USDA-ARS Honey Bee Lab in Baton Rouge known for its research related to honey bee breeding, genetics, physiology, nutrition, varroa, and much more! The lab staff were excellent hosts. I got to see artificial insemination tools for breeding Varroa Sensitive Hygiene (VSH) queens, mass spectrometry equipment, and even some of the home-made tools used by staff. The best part about my field trip was getting to vaccinate a worker bee under the microscope (see picture)! Vaccinating such a tiny organism was more difficult than I imagined. My shaky hands didn't help any. It was such a rewarding experience to visit the USDA lab in person and I highly recommend anyone who has the opportunity to make time to visit a lab near you.

As if vaccinating a honey bee and learning to be a honey judge weren't enough, the NOLA food and night life scene are nothing but spectacular. Indulging in the creole cuisine and live music on Bourbon Street were just an added bonus to attending this amazing conference. I also had lots of fun playing in a corn hole tournament against OSBA Vice President, Tom Cinquini, at the Project Apis m. Trade show booth. I heard rumors there may be corn hole at the OSBA Conference this fall!



The 2025 conference is scheduled to be held in Reno, Nevada. Dates are TBD but likely to be in January of 2025. Become a member and stay connected about upcoming ABF conferences at <https://abfnet.org/>

- *Jeremy Mitchell*, Flying Bee Ranch

Tillamook Cheese Block Hive Raffle

One Raffle - Two Drawings

Two Chances to win!

Win one of two of these hand-crafted, hand-painted beehives, created by local artisan beekeepers



The 1st hive will be raffled at the Headlight Herald Home and Garden Show @ 3:30 p.m. Sunday April 21st

The 2nd hive will be raffled at the Tillamook County Fair @ 4:00 p.m. Saturday August 10th

Secondary prizes for each drawing:

\$200 gift card for the Tillamook Creamery

\$100 gift card for the TCCA Farm Store

\$50 gift certificate for JAndy Acres Nurseries



Handcrafted by Rick Stelzig
Painted by a few TBA members



Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20

To purchase raffle tickets, go to:
www.tillamookbeekeepers.org



Scan ME

Coos Beekeepers Association

Coastal bees are staying close to the hive with this dreary, damp weather but the upside is that with the mild temperatures, some plants seem to be showing signs of early bloom. However, our more experienced beekeepers are cautious, telling us a 'false spring' might increase brood and, therefore the need for more food. Starvation can happen in early spring if we aren't aware of hive stores and we should be ready to feed if needed.

Our club had Rick Olsen speak at our January meeting

on "What's New in Beekeeping," information he picked up attending conferences in 2023. He shared numerous, research-based strategies to improve outcomes in the bee yard. We've also had a lot of interest in our upcoming Bee School in April and are thrilled to have Dr. Dewey Caron as our main instructor.

We are looking forward to a busy spring.

- Ann Marineau

You can renew your membership online!

Visit orsba.org



Our online swarm list registration is now open!

Sign up at orsba.org

South Willamette Valley

A far-reaching ice storm hit the valley on January 16. The damage to trees, power lines, and residences was massive. Many were out of power as well as internet coverage which caused cancellation of meetings, schools as well as communication between beekeepers for 10 days or more.

Lane County Beekeepers were looking forward to our new site for meetings: The Eugene Science Center and Dr. Ramesh Sagili was on the agenda as our first guest speaker. Our meeting was scheduled for January 16 and the storm caused everything to shut down. We were fortunate to reschedule Dr. Sagili's presentation via Zoom on January 30.

Our beekeepers in the Florence area of the coast have had lots of rain but mild temperatures. The report is the bees have been flying more than a normal winter on the coast and bringing in orange and white pollen, however, the source of these pollens isn't confirmed. (Only the bees know!)

In downtown Eugene, one beekeeper reported seeing lots of capped brood and in one hive, even capped drone brood. There was some uncapped nectar, the mystery is where it came from. This is very unusual and a possible sign of early season swarming if beekeepers aren't diligent in checking hives early and dealing with giving the queen room for laying. This early-year activity reminds us all of checking honey stores and feeding to avoid starvation.

Here in the valley, the Sweet Box, *Sarcococca* shrub is an early bloomer that the honey bees visit when the temperatures allow. It is very fragrant and a nice addition to the landscape as well.

- Pam Leavitt

Central Oregon Beekeepers Association

In October last year, we revised our bylaws to expand our association's board to include four at-large directors who will serve with the executive committee in guiding the organization. Our new directors bring a wealth of experiences and talents beyond beekeeping that are going to serve us well. We are proud that many of our board members have achieved apprentice or journey master beekeepers certifications. After over ten years of dedicated service as our president Allen Engle has stepped down from that role and I will do my best to try to fill his beesuit.

The snow that visited us in January led to the cancellation of our monthly meeting and the postponement of our first in-person OMB class. We are excited to have one of the largest classes of enthusiastic new beekeepers in our OMB program this year. They definitely will be keeping our class instructors and mentors on our toes.

We are busy organizing our annual bee school which will be held on March 9th in Bend. If attendance is similar to previous years, we expect to have 70+ attendees. COBKA members can attend free of charge while newcomers receive a year's membership in the club upon registration. The fee is \$20.

We have a full spring plate of presentations lined up for club meetings. Subjects include small-scale queen rearing, swarm management, and regenerative agriculture. We are also delighted to have Dewey Caron joining us in May to introduce the new and improved BeeMD website and walk us through using the diagnostic tool for identifying bee issues.

- Clyde Dildine



Umpqua Valley Beekeepers

February/March is a difficult time for us beekeepers. This is the season of anticipation and wonder. We have certain expectations of our carefully planned winterization techniques, yet wonder how the bees are doing, and know that if the weather warms up and then snaps cold, that could alter our anticipation. We are a tenacious bunch, fueled with curiosity and ingenuity, that will curb those unexpected alterations with a certain mastery. We hope everyone's winter was a successful one.

Swarm season is upon us! It's time to dust off that equipment, remove the booster seats from the family car, and load up! 'Tis the season to be free, or is it, the season of free bees?! With a bait box in one hand and a nuc in the other, we won't know if we are coming or going!


Our collaboration with OSU Extension, the Small Farms Program, Douglas County, our Beekeeping 101 Class was a huge success!!! We had 65 paid attendees and a handful of volunteers to help check people in at the door, answer questions during the break, help with the

presentation, and clean things up when the event was over, which made this event run smoother than buttered honey!

This was a beta run for the class and we plan to build on it, moving forward. With the beekeeping basics, we included a basic labeling requirement and how/where to sell your honey component, as well as, how to read a pesticide label and some of the different chemical categories of common ones used, or may have hanging around in your garage. We had a very positive response on this topic, as it is at the forefront of why our beloved bees/pollinators are struggling.

- Adrian Aramburu

Below: Students attend the Beekeeping 101 School



Honey and
Crop Pollination

George, Susan,
Matt & Joe Hansen
30576 Oswalt Rd
Colton, Oregon 97017

(503) 824-2265
www.foothillshoney.com



Portland Urban Beekeepers

It's rainy and cold in Portland, not that it isn't supposed to be, this time of year. But I'm ready for Spring, excited to get the beekeeping season to start, excited to have my yard dry out, and ready for warm sunny days. We are seeing some flying on warmish days; one lovely sunny Sunday recently, a nearby bed of crocuses was covered in bees. It's a nice reminder that those days are coming, even if they feel a-ways off.

PUB's February meeting featured Mandy Shaw discussing swarms, catching them, setting up bait hives, and the best ways to prepare for the swarm season. The behavior and science of swarming bees are always fascinating and Mandy's presentation was a wonderful combination of how-to practical advice, sage wisdom collected over the years, and interesting facts. Our second speaker for the evening was Ange Dunselman, a Portlander turned Netherlander who discussed the Giant Asian Hornet, commonly called

the "yellow-legged hornet" (*Vespa velutina*) in the US. This is not the "murder hornet" but is a cousin to it. This exceptional honeybee predator originated in SE Asia but has gradually moved elsewhere, particularly into Europe. The results have been devastating, with honey crops in France down 50% since its arrival.

In the Netherlands (and other European countries), there are national efforts to identify and destroy the nests. In the US, in late 2023, the yellow-legged hornet was found in Georgia and the US and Georgia Departments of Agriculture are working to keep them from spreading. It was Ange's opinion that every beekeeping club should have a person designated to follow this issue, as it's just a matter of time before they arrive in our backyards. So we've got that to look forward to!

- Jessica Anderson

(See page 18 for Yellow-Legged Hornet presentation notes)



(left) various species of yellowjackets (*Vespula* spp.) compared to (right) the yellow-legged hornet (*Vespa velutina*)

© USDA Photo by Todd Gilligan

Beeline Apiaries & Woodenware

See us for all your beekeeping supplies!

Woodenware

Foundation

Tools

Bee Health Products

Suits and Jackets

Books

Oxalic Acid Vaporizers

Bee Packages and Nucs available in Spring

PH: 360-280-5274

Email: beelineofwa@norcell.us

Store Hours:

February - August

Open Monday – Friday 8 AM to 5 PM

September – January

Tuesday – Thursday

8 AM – 5 PM

Store Address: 19019 Moon Rd SW Rochester, WA 98579

North Coast Region

Just when we thought we'd get a winter break, back-to-back storms hit us here on the coast. The acacias bloomed gloriously last month but the wind and rains kept the bees from them. It breaks my heart when I drive by them in the pouring rains and see the incredible yellow blossoms now carpeting the ground around them. Another winter pollen source lost!

It looks like we'll get at least two more months of winter ahead. As coastal beekeepers know, we have to embrace the suck till spring breaks. When? No one knows. Some years the rains don't stop till the summer solstice. Last year we were lucky and it broke on Cinco de Mayo giving us a healthy nectar flow from the big leaf maples. I've had two or three deadouts to deal with so far. Not bad given the wind and temps we've been having. I'll have to mix up another round of sug-

ar cakes to supplement their food stores one last time.

On the upside, all the bees are clustered up snugly and a round of oxalic vapor seems to have been effective. Mite drops are now down to a comfortable level at one or two per colony with a 24-hour sticky board check done during and after treatments.

The alders are starting to tassel out and the maples and willows are, if you look close, starting to bud. The weatherman is predicting a couple of days of sun with temps in the high 50s. Spring might be closer than we think.

- Rick Olson

WiFi Hive Scale For the busy beekeeper Lowest cost solution



You can't manage
what you don't
measure

**Steady stream of data will help
you know Almost as much as the
Queen Knows about her hive!**

Monitor hive data Anywhere on
PC, Phone, or Tablet

www.wifihivescale.com

info@wifihivescale.com

LCB #5718



Shonnard's
NURSERY ✿ FLORIST ✿ LANDSCAPE



LIVE BEES

Pre-Order for Spring Pick-up!

COME IN-STORE | CALL US | ORDER ONLINE

541-929-3524
www.shonnards.com
6600 SW Philomath Blvd
Corvallis, OR 97333



Stay Connected & Follow Us
@shonnardsbeekeepingdepartment



South Coast Region

Woodenware was the topic of the presentation by OSCBA President Jesse Fletcher, with a delightful screen show and a demonstration of an entire truck and trailer load of hives. Both TBH and Langs with all the variations of boxes, lids, entry devices, queen-rearing equipment, frames, top bars, and ones made of alternative materials, molded. Jesse pointed out that the two copper-clad Garden Hive roofs leaked at the top, both the TBH and the Lang.

The Top Bar kit, built to a purchased plan, actually had an open top, screed for ventilation with only a thin strip of wood of the handle hiding the hole from the presumed purely vertical rain. A kit of the same design was auctioned at the conference. Maarty Van Otterloo, former Vice President and current Bee Atlas Project participant, and frequent conference attendee demonstrated his quilt box creation, with a screened bottom, and shop towel absorbent topped by an insulation panel. He pointed out the angle of the wine cork stopper in the ventilation hole that was drilled at an angle upward toward the inside to prevent rain entry.

Elizabeth, our youngest beekeeper and daughter of Mike Hewgill, of the Pistol River Mushroom Farm, showed the end panel of the beautiful new hive purchased from Home Depot which has a viewing door at the end of each of the three hive boxes. The hives are a very colorful cedar that has been dipped in wax. There was no glass inside the three door openings, so Mike had a local glass company install those for less than twenty dollars. The three story hive with bottom board and both covers cost \$250. Reasonable for such an attractive outer and inner display for sharing in the yard.



Our potluck was the best ever since the meetings are

beginning to grow back to near normal. The Shepherd's Pie by our favorite Brit from Bandon, Alex Linke, who has been attending meetings at both Coos and Curry counties, was a hit and we hope to keep him and his neighbor beekeeper passenger coming for the more than two-hour round trip.

Next month, at our third Thursday meeting of the Oregon South Coast Beekeepers Assn. meeting, we will enjoy one of the best hiving demonstrations by Russ Rose our favorite local beekeeping instructor who is a commercial honey producer, along with wife Babbette, of My Honey's Produce.

Pollen is packing in at the hives abundantly here from Acacia trees. Heather has been a staple continuously. Rosemary is appearing and, our past President Jim Sorber reports a lot of foraging, as usual, where he lives, along the Rogue River, the best of the area. The Myrtle trees, Eucalyptus, and ivy are all beginning to bloom. Even in the drizzling rain of the mid-February meeting, my bees were bringing in pollen. Just too good to miss out on.

Blessings of the Buzz to y'all! Cheers!

- Mureen Walker



Central Coast Beekeepers Association

We of the Central Coast Beekeepers Association wrapped up 2023's activities with our November meeting. The first hour of the meeting was spent tasting honey provided by several different beekeepers. Most of the honey had been harvested locally in the Central Oregon Coastal area. And as you would expect, it was highly praised by all who tasted it. A sample of Big Leaf Maple honey, brought in by Rick Olson and Becca Fain, was thought to be the unofficial favorite of the sampling.

After wetting our tasters with honey, we got down to the business of electing officers for the coming year: President- Jeremy Egolf, Secretary- Dale Dawson, Vice President- Jim Parrish, and Treasurer- Steve Niles.

Our club emulated the bees and settled down in December and January for a long winter's nap, though in our fitful sleep, we dreamed up our speakers' program for the coming year. Our February meeting will feature Rick Olson on installing nucs and packages, which is timely since many of our members report deadouts and plan to replace their colonies. Speaking of which, we have identified a supplier for our club's bulk bee order, which we're providing at the club's cost plus a small surcharge to cover minor expenses. Besides the effects of queen failure, starvation, and hives being knocked over by elk, we've been recovering from January's fierce ice storms and howling winds.

In March, Max Kuhn will speak on swarm control, an important issue for those fortunate beekeepers whose

colonies not only survived but thrived.

My own intrepid foragers have been taking advantage of the occasional bit of dryer and warmer weather to bring in cream-colored pollen, beginning around February 12th, as the plentiful local alders' catkins mature (the "kids" would starve if they depended on the handful of filbert trees in our region that survive the coastal elk).

Speaking of pollen, we're digesting the Honeybee Health Coalition's fine new publication, "Honey Bee Nutrition: A Review and Guide to Supplemental Feeding". Especially interesting are the observations that the workers do not make and store bee bread made from pollen supplements; our reading of the booklet is that pollen supplements serve the protein needs of adult bees (a good thing) but do not support the larva. Our usual coastal dominant cycle of natural pollen sources features the aforementioned alders in February and into March, the main blackberry nectar flow centered on June, and the limited other blooms that capture our bees' interest (among them the odd dandelion or aster, scotch broom for some, borage and mustard in late summer). Therefore, we look forward to discussing the implications of all this when Dr. Ramesh Sagili talks to our club this May regarding the OSU bee lab's current research on the dual subjects of "Varroa Control and Pollen Supplements."

For outreach, we've booked a booth for the Lincoln County Fair over the July 4th weekend. Watch this space as our plans solidify.

Our usual meeting time and place is the 4th Wednesday of the month, 1:30 pm, at the Newport Public Library. In June and July, however, we'll be meeting at the same time and day at the Newport OSU Extension Office.

- Jeremy Egolf



Bee Culture®

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

Bee Culture Magazine

- 12 Big Issues a Year
- Digital and Paper Editions
- Catch the Buzz Daily Email Blast

Subscribe Today!

We have many options ranging in prices. There are print only, digital only and bundle options available!

See our options and pricing at www.BeeCulture.com

Portland Metro Area

So much has happened in the last several weeks! Just as submissions for the January/February edition of the newsletter were coming in, our state was preparing for a polar vortex. In the metro area, Lake Oswego and parts of Portland and Beaverton were hit especially hard with downed trees. In the week following the storm, I received 2 calls from homeowners who discovered honey bee nests in downed trees on their properties. The loss of habitat for insects, animals, birds, and humans will be felt for some time.

Just as quickly as the storm arrived, it passed and the weather returned to normal. Yesterday I spotted olive green and yellow pollen coming into my hives, and while driving through downtown Beaverton I saw several cherry trees starting to bloom.

This time of year is when we take a deep breath and get ready for the beekeeping season ahead. I am

taking inventory of my equipment, organizing and making some much-needed upgrades to my bee van. I moved 6 colonies with the help of family and friends this week. The hives were still surprisingly heavy, however, starvation can hit quickly if food stores aren't closely monitored.

If temperatures continue to be mild, we may see an early and prolific swarm season. I have hopes to begin making splits the first and second week of April.

Our regional clubs are kicking off bee schools and their speaker line-ups are impressive. 2024 is sure to be an amazing bee year!

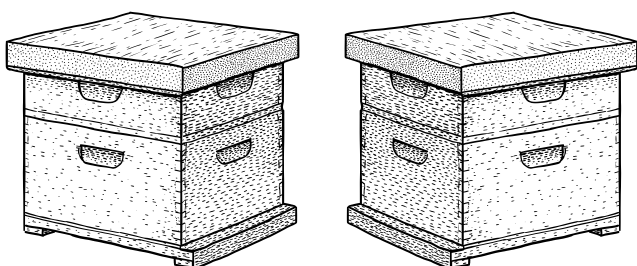
- Amanda (Mandy) Shaw

EVENTS

- Portland Metro Beekeepers Bee Day - May 11th
- EFB & AFB Taskforce Training - March 30th
- EAS Conference - Aug 5th-9th
- WASBA PNW Beekeeping Conference - Sept 28th-29th
- OSBA Conference - Oct 2024

- Pollinator Week - June 17th-23rd
- World Bee Day - May 20th
- National Honey Bee Day - August 17th

To submit an event contact us at communications@orsba.org



OREGON HONEY AND MEAD FESTIVAL

9~21~24 // 11A~5P

HONEY, MUSIC, ART,
NATIVE PLANTS, TASTINGS, SPEAKERS, SCIENCE,
POLLINATION STATION FOR KIDS, MEAD GARDEN FOR 21+

Cascade Girl Oregon Honey Festival

Sept. 21, 2024 - Edenvale Winery
2310 Voorhies Rd., Medford
www.cascadegirl.org ~ 501(c)3 charity

Be Prepared: The Yellow-Legged Hornet

Presentation notes: Ange Dunselman-Kunzmann, beekeeper and former Portlander, joined the February meeting of the Portland Urban Beekeepers Association to update us on the Yellow-legged Hornet and share her personal experiences with this invasive species.

A wasp by many names

The Yellow-legged or Asian hornet, formally called the *Vespa velutina*, is indigenous to Southeast Asia. Like all hornets, the Yellow-legged hornet is part of the wasp or Vespidae family. This invasive species has become a threat in Europe and has been spotted in the US this year. They are fast and agile, making them very good at catching prey and a top predator. It is important to distinguish between the Yellow-legged hornet and the European hornet (*Vespa crabro*). At about 1 inch long, this hornet is smaller than its European counterpart, with a black head and chest, a black and dark abdomen with yellow bands, and yellow legs.

Advance of the hornet

The Yellow-legged hornet has been advancing across Europe since 2004 when it was first spotted in France. Since then, it has colonized in France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. This poses a threat to local bee populations, as the hornet preys on bees. In August of this year, the Yellow-legged hornet was first detected in the United States near Savannah, Georgia, after a local beekeeper reported an unusual hornet on their property. Since then, the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture has actively put teams in place to track, trap, and eradicate the hornets and nests. To date, they have found and eradicated five nests. Most likely this started with a single mated queen arriving from Asia via a port of entrance.

Impact of the Hornet

The potential impact of this invasive species is significant. One nest can consume over 24 pounds (100,000) of insects a year (33-66% bees, 17-34% flies, 15-30% wasps, and 30% other insects depending on location). Honeybees outside of the hornet's native area have no effective defense. Beekeepers in areas where the hornet is present are seeing colony stress on the bee colonies, leading to weakening and ultimately

colony collapse. Currently, France and Spain are reporting 50% colony loss. While the loss of honeybees will be most visible, native insects will be consumed in huge quantities, having a knock-on effect on all pollination and food cultivation.

Prepare and stay informed

Ange came in contact with the hornet for the first time this past season when the first ones arrived near her hives. Together with the local beekeeper community, she tracked down the nest by catching and marking several hornets, tracking their direction of flight and distance (based on time until they returned). While finding and eradicating the nest was a success, it was late enough in the season that many young queens had certainly already flown out. The community is now planning for a further fight in the coming season. Based on her experience and knowledge from the European perspective Ange shared this advice with us: Prepare by having a main contact person within the beekeeper's club be responsible for staying up to date on the latest Yellow-legged hornet information and local progression.

Beekeepers need to be aware of the Asian Hornet because they will likely be the first to spot them. Monitor hives for signs of Yellow-legged hornet activity and report sightings to local authorities.

The Asian Hornet is a serious threat to local bee populations, and beekeepers and other concerned individuals must take action to protect our bees. By working together, we can help to control the spread of this invasive species and protect our local ecosystems.

Resources

Georgia Dept of Agriculture: [Yellow-Legged Hornet | Georgia Department of Agriculture](#)

Asian Hornet Action Team: <https://www.ahat.org.uk/>

USDA APHIS: [Yellow Legged Hornet](#)





OREGON STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

4130 SW 117th Ave #A-176

Beaverton, OR 97005

orsba.org



The Bee Line

The Bee Line is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. An annual subscription is included with your membership.

Submissions to this newsletter are open to all members and affiliated associations. Please share news about your bees, events, recipes, opinions, photos, ads, and questions to the current editor: Amanda (Mandy) Shaw, waggleworkspdx@gmail.com

The next issue of The Bee Line will be the April edition. Submission deadline is March 20th.

You are what makes our community vibrant. We want to hear from you!

Did you know that you can join or renew your membership online? Visit orsba.org today!

Advertising (per issue)

Event Listing

All events, space permitting (15 words) Free

Non-profit group event listing or article
(45 words) Free

Advertising

Business card \$10.00

Quarter page \$25.00

Half page \$50.00

Full page \$100.00

Classified ads (30 words)

Members \$3.00

Nonmembers \$5.00