



The Bee Line

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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OSBA

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OSU Extension Service.

info@oregonmasterbeekeeper.org



*Honeybee foraging on Scilla
courtesy of Sandi Collis*

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AFFILIATED REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Central Coast Beekeepers Association
Meets 1:30 pm, fourth Wednesday, Newport
President: Jeremy Egolf— jeremyregolf@gmail.com
cobaor.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 Molyneux—wildeverlastingfarm@gmail.com
lcbao.org

Linn Benton Beekeepers Association
Meets 6:30 pm, third Wednesday, Corvallis
President: Steve Oda—steve@lba.us lba.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 fellow Beekeepers,

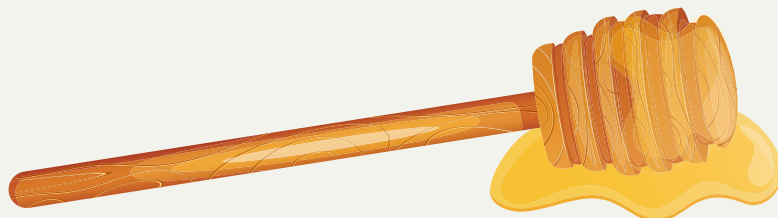
The Spring is flying by, commercial beekeepers are back from the almonds and have already gone into pears apples and blue berries. Many of you have already picked up nucs or soon will. Some of you may already have suppers on your hives with some honey in them. Strong hives are casting swarms.

Ag-Fest has come and gone AND PMBA's annual Bee Day May 11th is quickly approaching.

So far this Spring has been good to us. We as beekeepers must remain vigilant because the weather that was so mild in April could turn wet and cold in May, so supplemental feeding may be necessary to keep our bees from staving.

If your club needs a speaker on a specific topic consider contacting [Project Apis m.](#)

Sincerely,
 Joe Maresh
 President, OSBA
 503 703 5060



Project Apis m.

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FAVORITE BEE PLANT

Scientific name: Aesculus hippocastanum L.

Common names: Horse chestnut

Portland-area bloom time: May, Jun

No matter the time of year, I almost always check out the pollen—if there is, indeed, any—that is being packed home on the back legs of honey bees. The array of pollen colors is usually muted, mostly one might describe as pale yellow or even gray (likely the Armenian blackberry—and stay tuned for more on this plant coming up, as it is next month's favorite plant). But, boy howdy, at times, we do get some eye-popping pollen colors, specifically those neon oranges and yellows (most likely crocus, dandelions, and/or dahlias). However, the two pollens that have brought me the most joy through the years are some purple pollen I once photographed on a honey bee on clematis (which is not really a great source of pollen but there is obviously some) and brick red pollen, which comes from this month's favorite plant, the horse chestnut. I had to look up what the horse "nuts" are even used for (and please note: horse chestnuts are not for human consumption at all because the nuts contain chemicals that are toxic for us—however, squirrels can safely consume them). The answer? Not much. But the pollen is brick red and apparently plentiful. These trees are magnificent when the blooms are out, each kind of shaped like a miniature holiday tree and can cover the entire tree. And, not only do the trees produce plentiful pollen, but they are great nectar producers. I'm fortunate to have a lot of these "old growth" horse chestnuts in the

old neighborhoods in NE Portland, and even luckier to have numerous American chestnut trees (*Castanea dentata*) in my neighborhood, almost across the street. American chestnuts are very edible and tasty. They also produce abundant (pale!) pollen, but not until usually July. And not much nectar.

-Glen Andresen, Beekeeper & OSU Master Gardener



About Glen Andresen:

Glen started keeping honey bees in 1991, the same year, coincidentally, he became an Oregon State University Master Gardener. He posts a monthly list and photos of Portland-area honey bee plants that are typically in bloom during the current month at <http://www.bridgetown-bees.com/whats-in-bloom>.



WESTERN BEE SUPPLIES

1965

2023



POLSON, MONTANA

KEEPING BEES THIS MONTH

For New Packages and Nucs

Keep feeding! The bees need sugar syrup to build comb. Continue feeding until all the frames are drawn or until they stop taking syrup.

When seven of ten frames are drawn into comb, you can add a second box. When 70% of these frames are drawn, add another...and so on.

Manipulate frames of foundation to encourage the bees to build comb on all the frames. You can place undrawn frames between drawn frames to encourage them to draw comb. But, don't put these frames in the middle of the brood cluster. Splitting the brood cluster makes it difficult for the bees to care for the brood.

Open the entrance reducer when the bees appear congested at the entrance. When the bees have built up sufficiently (about 8 weeks) you can remove the entrance reducer completely.

Begin sampling for varroa mites in mid-June. See General Info (next page) for treatment options.

For Established/Overwintered Colonies

Consider reversing the brood chambers if doing so will give the Queen more room to lay and if the bottom box doesn't already contain eggs, larvae, or brood. To reverse the brood chambers, take the top brood box and put it on top of the bottom board and put the one that was on the bottom on top.

Congestion in the colony is a primary reason that bees swarm, so it's important to anticipate their space needs before they need it.

If you suspect the bees will swarm, take action! There are several options available including splitting your strong colony or adding more room in the brood nest using a technique called checkerboarding.



OSCBA Treasurer, Steve McKenna, gets two bee packages.
photo courtesy of Mureen Walker



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General Info

The bees will be VERY busy so make sure you give them plenty of room to store nectar.

Once the dandelions are out, you can add supers. A good guideline is to have an empty super on from mid-May through mid-September

The bees will spread out nectar to evaporate it. Three supers of nectar might result in one super of honey (once fully evaporated). So, give them plenty of room. If you don't, they'll put nectar in the brood chamber.

Inspect and sample the colony for varroa mites. Apply treatments if necessary. The Honey Bee Health Coalition Tools for Varroa Management www.honeybeehealthcoalition.com has info on testing for varroa as well as IPM options. Read the directions

and check the extended weather forecast – some treatments work better in warm temperatures and others in cooler temperatures. After treatment, sample again to make sure your treatment worked.

Services available to answer your questions about your bees and how to manage them via email:

- 1) ask.a.beekeeper@orsba.org
- 2) <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/ask-extension>

- *Brian Fackler*, Cornell University Master Beekeeper, Washington State Master Beekeeper, and Oregon Master Beekeeper Journey Mentor

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TILLAMOOK BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

It is a pleasure to say that Tillamook County is getting some spring weather this year. After a very difficult spring last year, our bees are grateful (not to mention the beekeepers). Many trees are blooming now, and lawns are alive with English Daisies and dandelions. Try to remember the bees when deciding when or if to mow.

TBA has many new members this year who have attended our New Beekeeper's Class and are setting up their apiaries to receive bees soon. We have all been digging out our gear to clean and set up and have found that some changes wish to be made. Some members, old and new, need more boxes, frames, and equipment, and some need less. With this in mind, we held a Beekeepers' Swap, Buy and Sell meet at our club apiary. It was raining, but this is Oregon, and no one melted. We had people wanting to step up to 10 frame hives from eight frame, people wanting to step down to 8 frame hives from 10 frames, and people converting to horizontal hives and selling all their boxes. New beekeepers were able to pick up needed equipment at very reasonable prices. It was a successful event. While the commercial activities were going on, two new trees (acacia baileyana) were planted, and the storage shed was cleaned and sorted.

Our monthly association meeting on April 13th concentrated on installing nucs and preventing swarms. Several members had already captured a swarm and the warm weather is making everyone nervous. Claire Moody talked about setting up equipment for nucs and advised on the best swarm box dimensions and locations. Written materials were available to reinforce the oral presentation. She recommended doing splits for very strong hives.

Drones are finally making their appearance and with a little luck, we will be having suc-

cessful mating flights. Preparation is often the difference between success and failure.

The Tillamook Beekeepers' Association had a very strong presence at the Headlight Herald Home and Garden Show at the Tillamook Fairgrounds on April 20 and 21. There were short classes about bees for the public as well as pollinator plants and bee crafts for sale. Our Tillamook Cheese raffle hive was on display and the first of two drawings for the year were at the end of the Home and Garden Show. The second hive is identical and its drawing will be at the end of the Tillamook County Fair in August. Purchased raffle tickets will be kept in the hopper for both drawings.

- Patsy Weber



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LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The LCBA has had a busy spring adjusting to our new Meeting location at the Eugene Science Center next to Autzen Stadium. We meet in the Planetarium where we utilize their state-of-the-art audio-visual components for our presentations, with the added benefit of comfy chairs! We are in the process of developing curriculum for our early meetings to provide beginners with a comprehensive management plan to follow throughout the season. Our monthly management series is presented by a different keeper each month highlighting the main objectives of the season in our region. We hope this will give new beekeepers some continuity while allowing our main meeting presentations to come from diverse perspectives without confusing folks. Last month we featured Hamm Vitrifex of Honeystung Apiary. His talk "Swarming: More than You Wanted to Know" was a huge suc-

cess. Hamm waxed in depth about swarm biology and the conditions that precipitate swarming. He also gave practical and comprehensive methods for suppressing swarms while urging folks to consider the impact of allowing hives to swarm unnecessarily rather than developing skills and techniques to prevent them. Hamm and his wife Ariel do a lot of community service in the way of rescuing swarms in our community on behalf of the LCBA. It was great to hear such an informative talk on a subject we often take for granted but actually is the intersection in which bees interact with the public much of the time. They reminded us of the importance of taking responsibility for our hives AND the swarms they throw. A good reminder in such an abundant spring where we have had lots and lots of swarm calls!

- Fonta Molyneaux

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(Pictured) a Bee on Osoberry, *Oemleria cerasiformis* is the earliest nectar-producing native shrub to bloom in the spring in the Willamette Valley. Providing much-needed nectar and pollen to Native pollinators and honeybees alike in the spring and fruits for birds in the summer earning it the common name bird cherry. Osoberry is found west of the cascades throughout the Cascadian Bioregion.

PORTLAND METRO BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Hold your horses...*I mean donkeys!* Exciting news for PMBA members as our honey bees will soon hear braying from our first club apiary at the Oregon Donkey Sanctuary in Oregon City! We are excited to work alongside these endearing, kindhearted, and perceptive animals who are well-loved and cared for. A perfect environment for members to share their love of honey bees, beekeeping education, and scratch an ass or two. We are thankful for this introduction by PMBA member Kris Nelson who volunteers at the sanctuary and Troy Bany who has agreed to be our apiary manager. Get to know our new neighbors at oregondonkeys.org.

Members report the first nectar flow in early-mid April with big-leaf maple and fruit tree blossoms. Similar to last month, the overriding objective is for all colonies to be queen-right, healthy, and well-fed so they have a large workforce of honey bees for our major nectar flow of Himalayan blackberry. PMBA recently purchased a motorized Hillco honey extractor for club members as a second option for extraction this year.

PMBA returns to the Master Gardener Spring Fair at the Clackamas County Fairground in Canby May 4-5th. Our keynote event "Bee Day" is the following Saturday, May 11th. Sign-up is online (portlandmetrobeekeepers.org) with limited capacity for participants at Foothills Honey Company. This year our speakers are OSBA president Joe Maresh to discuss the basics of beekeeping and OSU Ellen Topitzhofer sharing her knowledge on honey bee disease. Lectures are spaced between two sessions in the apiary with skilled beekeepers for hive inspections. Lunch is included with registration, an option to purchase a new PMBA hat, and raffle tickets. This year's raffle participants could walk away with a long Langstroth hive, deep sea fishing trip, pottery, handmade swarm trap, pollinating plants, garden center vouchers, wellness gift baskets and so much more! PMBA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit so all funds raised go to honey bee education and

research. We anticipate beautiful weather and a great turnout.

Our April lecture was our very own president Paul Stromberg who discussed hive preparation for a package or nucleus colony and making splits. This is in time for our beginner beekeepers to pick up their nucleus colonies. Paul brought our attention to the drone research of Zachary Lamas at USDA Beltsville, Maryland. His research reveals a paradigm shift in varroa mite management by sampling drones. Zachary's research will be published in this month's American Bee Journal and discussed in further detail with Dewey Caron at our May meeting.

Finally, this is swarm season and our swarm hotline has been active. Our April meeting raffled two of Jamie Caldwell's DIY swarm buckets!

We are grateful to Jamie as she developed and maintains our swarm list. This utilizes a call-in hotline that routes the caller to a PMBA beekeeper in their area. Swarm sightings? Give us a call 877-739-2335 (877-PDX-BEEK)

- Sandi Collis





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SOUTH WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Our sunny afternoons are busy with calls to Lane County Beekeepers Association about honeybee swarms. On April 18th, within 30 minutes, 4 calls came in. The club is fortunate to have many keepers on our swarm list who respond to the concerned citizens' requests for removal.

Ariel Schulze, LCBA board member, sent these two pictures of swarms she retrieved. One was on the street in downtown Eugene and the other was on a construction site at the University of Oregon.

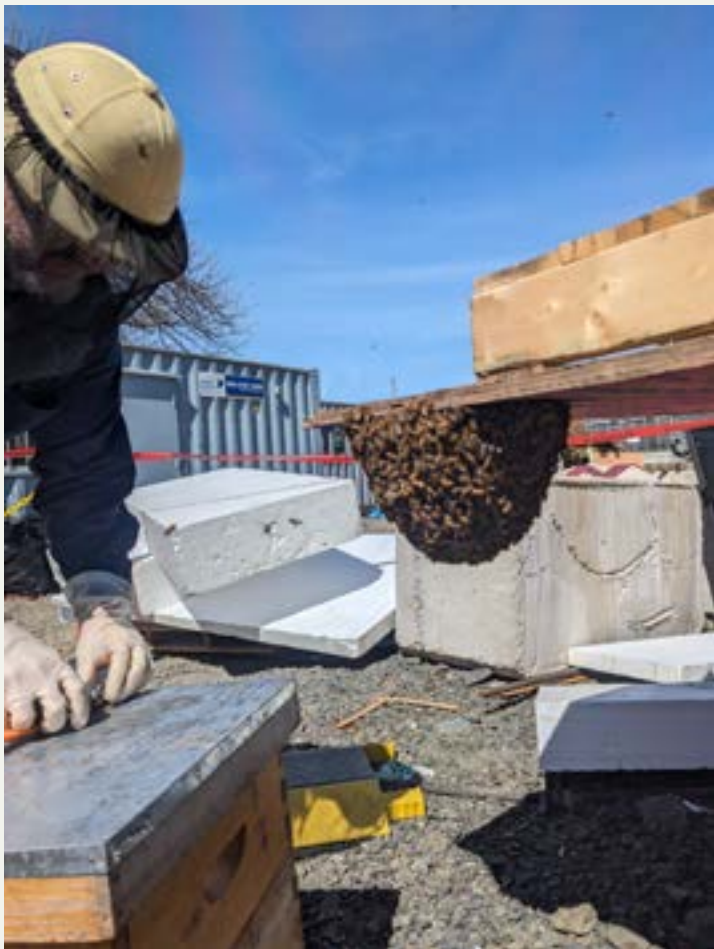
Colony reports from the Coburg Hills at 950 feet elevation, the hives are booming, with lots of brood, larvae, and eggs. One super is full of honey already. Drones and drone brood, as well as queen cups have been noted upon inspection. The hives are filling with maple honey and lots of pollen.

This apiary is centered within 400 feet elevation and 2000 feet, so the bees have good access across a wide area of elevation change and a variety of sources. The beekeeper has had to make a couple of splits and is watching carefully in hopes he can avoid swarming from his apiary.

The bees at a coast apiary are starting to get busy with pollen collection from big-leaf maples and wildflowers.

Planning is underway for events that LCBA will be participating in to share our knowledge of and love for the bee. These are opportunities to educate others on the importance of pollinators, both native and honeybees.

- Pam Leavitt



S-Spring W-Weather A-Always R-Reveals M-Many S-Swarms!

COOS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Swarm season is in full force on the coast. We dealt with several the day of our last meeting, and then while gathering at the apiary, we were met with another swarm from one of our training hives. The next day while checking on a club nuc, another swarm was on the fence. We quickly went from a three-hive apiary to a six. Some lucky club members will soon be getting a good deal on some nucs!

Community involvement is one of our goals and we were invited to present "Basic Beekeeping" at the Coos Bay Public Library for their Homesteading Series, and we also

hosted a table at the Master Gardeners conference "Fertilize Your Mind." It's easy to talk to folks who are interested in beekeeping, and of course, having an observation hive is a big draw, too.

This is the first year we have offered Bee School, which was scheduled for April 27th. We had 25 attendees signed up and Dr. Caron had a full day of classroom and apiary activities planned. I signed up and I was excited to bee back to school!

- Ann Marineau



PORTLAND URBAN BEEKEEPERS

By most accounts, bee hives are booming this year! That's always nice to hear as people get excited for the inevitable swarms and strong honey potential. PUB has been focusing its monthly meetings around the beekeeping calendar with the goal of supporting newer beekeepers.

In March Paul Stromberg, President of the Portland Metro Beekeeping Association talked about NUC installation and Brian Fackler provided an overview of yellow jacket management. Our April speaker was our Apiary Manager, Jana, speaking about how to make splits. Our club apiary continues to have success at overwintering and the opportunities to make splits have been a bonus for attendees to our bi-monthly Bee Days which recently started back up.

Now that the nice weather is upon us, PUB continues its relationship with Blanchet House Farms in Carlton, OR. This farm incorporates animal husbandry into sobriety recovery for residents. Our PUB President Brian Wagstaff, as well as father-daughter duo and PUB Board members Brian and Katy Fackler have all been long-time participants

in maintaining the farm's apiary and teaching residents about beekeeping.

The season recently kicked off with a honeybee event for residents, staff, donors, and guests. The day featured honey tasting, a presentation on challenges to successful beekeeping, and a log hive demonstration. There were great questions and interactions and the event highlighted the kinds of wonderful community gatherings our clubs can create.

- Jessica Anderson



SOUTH COAST REGION

Despite atmospheric rivers, most OSCBA members reported that at least one hive survived overwintering moisture challenges. The largest meeting since 2019 brought in about 35 attendees for the hiving demonstration by commercial beekeeper and educator, Russ Rose, who along with wife Babette runs My Honey's Produce. They go down near Sacramento area to pick up bee packages for club members and friends on both sides of the state line.

I participated in the hiving at several areas, and saw the Green Queen fastened in, including my own, the fourth one, on the fourth day. No need to delay her exit with a marshmallow, so I used a banana plug. The next day, when I went back up to the rooftop hive and took a peek, there was the Green Queen up on top of the frames looking very alone and unattended. She ducked down out of sight and I quickly closed the hive. A week later I go back up to refill the feeder, and there is a Red Queen! What a surprise!

Cheers!

- Mureen Walker



Right: Mureen Walker inserts a banana plug into the cork hole of the Queen Cage, figuring that there has been plenty of time for everyone to get acquainted.

Left: Hiving a package of bees into an awaiting hive.

Below: We bee hiving a good day!



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

With the erratic weather - very little rain for two weeks followed by the more expected interminable drizzle and showers - we've cautioned our members to check food supplies regularly, especially since many members report ample brood development. And, of course, colony status varies tremendously with the micro-climates and micro-environments. One member with multi-species blooms in his area reports hive weight gain of as much as four pounds in a day. We've seen both bumble and honey bees in our small patch of blooming fava beans so we look forward to planting many more to overwinter and help fill the gap between the early spring alder and maple pollination and the blackberry nectar flow. We've noticed that our early volunteer mustards are bolting; spurring questions of whether they are stimulated by day length, since we're about two months preceding the summer solstice and we usually see flowering two months after the solstice.

Our April meeting was billed as a dead-out workshop but quickly transitioned to a multifaceted and enjoyable free-form discussion. Much interest was generated by observations that departing swarms can include not just the usual current queen and the typical 40-60% of the colony (as expected) but also, apparently, the new queen and considerable accompanying bees who then returned to the hive. A question about creamed honey brought forth information that it can be developed by adding some already creamed honey to fresh honey, apparently providing nucleation points for crystallization (somewhat like Ice Nine, for you Kurt Vonnegut fans). It was also brought forth that using certain shop towels for oxalic acid sponges introduces micro plastics to a hive, a matter of broad concern in our conscientious group. This month, OSU Bee Lab Director Ramesh Sagili will grace us with his presence and his thoughts on pollen

patties and varroa treatments.

We have outreach events scheduled for May, June, and July (the Florence Garden Club sale, the Waldport library pollinator event, and the Lincoln County Fair). We've also completed scheduling our transition to Saturday afternoon meetings, which will begin in July. We picked this time and day to enable attendance both by members holding down Mon-Fri jobs, and those not wanting to make long drives at night. Finally, we've submitted our bulk order for nucs and packages to a local breeder and look forward to delivery in a few weeks.

- *Jeremy Egolf*



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The poster features a woman in a straw hat and floral dress standing in a field of sunflowers with her arms outstretched. A QR code is visible on the right side. The background shows a blue sky and green hills.

TUALATIN VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

We held our first field day of 2024 on Saturday, April 13. The weather held out just right for us. Two sessions were held; the morning was more for beginners with instruction on mite treatment, nuc installation, swarm management, hive components, setup, and inspection. The afternoon session was more advanced topics, splits, use of double screen bottom boards, queen right colonies, and hands-on queen marking.

ciate the contribution of knowledgeable and experienced club members who gave instruction and organization. The VanDykes (members) are always so willing to allow us to use their property and apiary for various meetings and events.

- Bradley Anderson

Both were very well attended. We appre-



PORTLAND METRO AREA AND BEYOND

Have you ever wondered what it's like to keep bees on a tropical island? I had an invitation to visit Katie Metzger from [Hanai Hives](#) in North Shore, Oahu to speak at a community event she was hosting. Oahu was everything that I expected and MORE!



Katie's expansive property is home to some 30 hives used for mentoring and hive tours, a food forest (think mangoes, jack fruit, pomelos, avocados, bananas...), and a honey house. I was lucky to tag along and visit hives that she has at local farms, including [Kuilima Farm](#) and [Kokua Learning Farm](#).

Hive inspections were similar to what we experience here except for the scorpions, geckos, and centipedes hiding under the hive lids! Hive beetles are an ongoing problem for beekeepers on the island, and beetle traps were installed in every hive.

At the event I traveled there for, guests from the [University of Hawaii](#) spoke about the fight to keep invasive species off of the island, including a program to monitor for AHB (*Apis Mellifera Scutellata*). Dr. Ethel Villalobos shared about their efforts and progress to build varroa resistance in Hawaii's honeybee populations. The outlook at this time is positive! Another topic of importance is the increase in micro-plastics found within beehives. Specifically, the

synthetic fibers of the SHB towels that are used to control beetle populations. The ask for beekeepers is to use less plastic in their hives.

Upon my return home, I was greeted with several days of back-to-back swarms. (Note to self - DON'T TRAVEL DURING SWARM SEASON!) I did my best to prepare my colonies before traveling, and it appears for the most part my efforts were successful, but a few still swarmed anyway.

The weekend of the 20th, I joined Dr. Dewey Caron to teach at the Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association bee school. It is wonderful to meet with fresh beekeepers who are eager to learn everything they can to care for their bees. The event was well attended, and fortunately, the weather cooperated for in-hive demonstrations.

- Mandy Shaw



CENTRAL OREGON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

We held our annual bee school in early March under the skilled organization and guidance of Muffy Roy, our club secretary. Fifty-five (55) eager beginners attended. The goal of the school was to provide attendees with the basic information they would need in their first year as a beekeeper. Over the course of the day, participants moved through seven stations devoted to various beekeeping basics. Our instructors naturally included some of our veteran club members, but it was especially rewarding to see several of our newly graduated OMB students creating and delivering quality education too. Thank you, Libby Rice, Jen Judd, and Joan Sciacca.

Given we are rapidly approaching swarm season we found it important to address that subject at our March club meeting. As with all things honey bees, understanding bee biology is key to our success as beekeepers. So, a heavy emphasis was placed on first understanding swarm biology as a basis for determining swarm management needs. A range of management techniques were then reviewed, from adding or reversing boxes, to expanding the brood nest, to splits, and on to queen genetics. It seems everybody these days wants to answer swarm calls, regardless if they have had any experience doing so or not. So, the final portion of the program was devoted to understanding caller engagement, swarm equipment needs, public education, and various rescue techniques. New beekeepers were highly encouraged to enlist the help of an experienced swarm veteran when they get their first swarm call.

Our live, in-person OMB program continues to enjoy strong attendance with Saturday classes led by Muffy Roy and Naomi Price. One

highlight of the program has been the opportunity for the students to get hands-on experience doing postmortems on some winter dead outs. Our mentors are beginning to work with their mentees focusing on spring management needs. Hopefully, spring will arrive soon so students can practice the knowledge they have gained.

- Clyde Dildine



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UMPQUA VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Our club has been buzzing with activity! When the sun is out, the ‘Swarm Chaser’ hotline is ringing! A few members have been able to capture a swarm from their own apiary and one tells us that swarms have moved into 4 of the 5 bait boxes he had set out. Saying it has been the earliest that has ever happened (in April), usually, it is well into May when the girls decide to move into his abodes. We’ve had one member find herself directing traffic around a swarm that landed on the double yellow lines, on a busy road, while on her way home from work. All she had was a cardboard box and her suit. She caught the queen, put her in the box, and continued to direct traffic while the bees marched in. I can’t wait for the movie to come out, or hear how the story evolves as it passes into folklore!

The Honey Bee Relocation Task Force is honing their tools and itching their pry bars, as we prepare to help property owners



move these beautiful beasts to a new, more favorable home and location. We are careful in selecting these removals by making sure they are not beyond our skill set and with an understanding from the property owner that a contractor may need to be hired prior to the removal. I would say, roughly 50%, of our jobs come from the discovery of bees during a remodel, or an empty structure that will be demolished. These removals are excellent educational and fun team-building events, as each one is different, and they have their own unique challenges and rewards.

We’ve stacked up some events near the end of April and the first week in May. We were invited to give a talk to the local Grange Association quarterly meeting, on Sunday, April 21st. Umpqua Community College is celebrating Earth Day on Monday, April 22nd, where we will have a table with one of our observation hives and handouts. We have an event table at the Glide Wildflower Show on April 27th and 28th, and the Douglas County Master Gardeners Plant Expo on May 4th, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

For our monthly meeting, on May 1st, we are excited to be hosting the authors of, “Raising Resilient Bees”, Eric and Joy McEwen from Diggin’ Livin’ Farm and Apiary. Their topic will be on, Natural Nest Beekeeping: A family-scaled commercial beekeeping operation in SW Oregon incorporating organic and bio-dynamic methods. More to come on this and we can’t wait to have more speakers in the future!

- *Adrian Aramburu*

2024 OREGON AGFEST HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to all of the volunteers who joined us at the 2024 AgFest! Our participation in events like this are at the core of what it means to represent our community and of course, our BEES! If you would like to volunteer for future events, contact our events coordinator, Bonnie King, at bonjking@gmail.com.



THE ADAPTIVE BEE BREEDERS ALLIANCE PRESENTS



**TUESDAY
JULY 2, 2024
KERBY OREGON**

Kerby Belt Building
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Kerby, OR 97531-9722
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Workshop tickets \$50*

*scholarships are available



Scan to register, or go to mapmydca.com and click on the EVENTS tab

Join Diggin' Livin' Apiaries for a one day workshop on all things drone!

Whether you're a hobby beekeeper or a queen breeder, educating yourself about the importance of having a healthy drone population in your apiary will enhance your beekeeping practice.

This workshop will include lectures and hands-on activities, including:

- In depth learning about the biology and behavior of honey bee drones with Julia Mahood, Map My DCA
- Semen extraction education and demonstration by Melanie Kirby, Zia Queen Bees
- Afternoon demonstration of using a UAV to find drone congregation areas

Flying a UAV is weather dependent, so we can not guarantee the outdoor portion of the workshop.



EFB & AFB TASKFORCE

Trainings and on site visits are underway for our Portland Metro Area task force! We provide free education and on site hive inspections to help identify cases of EFB and AFB in our area. If your club is interested in learning how you can initiate these services in your area, contact our task force lead, [Brian Fackler](#).



Pictured left: Brian Fackler conducting an evaluation of brood comb that was included in a lot of used equipment that a beekeeper recently purchased.



EVENTS

- Portland Metro Beekeepers Bee Day - May 11th
- EAS Conference - Aug 5th-9th
- Oregon State Fair - Aug 23rd - Sept 2nd
- 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 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, communications@orsba.org

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

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

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