



## January 2023 NEWSLETTER

**LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**  
130 HANSEN LANE, EUGENE, OR 97404

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\* Brian Jackson 541-513-3716 \* Ariel Schulze 541-517-2694

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Past President: Brian McGinley 541-521-7523



### President's Message by Fonta Molyneaux

Greetings Beekeepers! It's my great pleasure to share my first of many presidential messages in our monthly newsletter! I'll begin by wishing all our members and volunteers a very Happy 2023! The year of the Bee, as I've taken to calling it! May your hives and hearts be full throughout the year as we lean into this devoted craft and difficult skill.

As beekeepers we often focus on the productivity of the expansion season when our hives are bustling with activity as are we. I think it important to remind ourselves that the season of contraction is just as important to the health and well being of not only our bees, but our own biology as well, as we rest, dream and prepare for summer's delight!

Now is the perfect time to plan your 2023 apiary and garden, order gear, source bees and get your seed catalogs marked up in preparation for the springtime when we must implement our visions! Until then it's important we rest and recalibrate through this period of inactivity, just as our bees do.

During January our bees are tightly clustered using all their sustained vitality to keep the queen warm and feed themselves accordingly. It is the time where many hives will crash from mite pressure, lack of available nourishment or both. It is very easy to be anxiously aware of this reality as we search for signs of life on sunny days or with fancy heat sensing cameras. However, in this day and age with average yearly losses in the 30-40% range, it's important to view yourselves as devoted to beekeeping regardless of your overwinter success, number of hives or abundant honey harvests. This craft is not for the faint of heart, it will take many years to fully meet the needs of your bees in a meaningful way and its important folks realize that even when we do everything "right" we still lose bees.

Its my belief through community, education and resource sharing we can hope to navigate this challenging terrain together. Take this time to let yourself off the hook worrying over your

*continued on page 2*

### GENERAL MEETING January 17, 2023

#### In-Person Meeting

**Come early to socialize and share your Questions with experience beekeepers.**

**Social 7:00pm-7:30pm**

#### Early Q & A Session

**Doors open at 6:00pm**

**Q&A Starts at 6:15pm**

**Bring your questions for experienced beekeepers to answer.**

Fireside Room

#### General Meeting

**Topic: Varroa & Nutrition Management  
Keys to Successful Beekeeping**

**Speaker: Dr. Ramesh Sagili  
OSU Bee Lab**

**Program begins at 7:30pm**

Trinity United Methodist Church

440 Maxwell Road, Eugene

Turn West off River Road (South of Beltline)

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*president's message continued*

bees and emerge from the winter ready to meet Spring Equinox and the official beginning of bee season with renewed devotion, plans and research to implement in your yards.

I am so honored to be your president and will do my utmost to share my time, skills and practices with this beautiful and vibrant community of fellow beekeepers in the hope we can share the burden and the blessing of beekeeping together.

We have an incredible year of new speakers and events planned for 2023! Beginning with Dr. Ramesh Sagili of the OSU bee lab and one of the most important minds in the country in bee research! Join Us as we dive deep into the topic of Varroa Mites, one of the biggest obstacles to keeping bees in modern times. This annual talk is sure to be filled with the latest research and best practices and as always thank you for being here. Your presence matters!



### Beginning Beekeeping Classes

Lane County Beekeepers is offering beginning beekeeping classes in February and March. These will be in person classes covering what a new beekeeper needs to know to be successful to begin their journey. The first three months keeping bees requires knowledge of bees, equipment, instillation, feeding, inspections and care of the colony. The club will offer Summer, Fall and Winter management at the general meetings to supplement the Spring management given in this class.

#### Class Dates:

Saturday, February 4, 2023 9:00am to 1:00 pm

Saturday, March 4, 2023 9:00am to 1:00pm

Pre-registration Is Required, Class size is limited.

Registration Fee: \$50 per person

Includes a 65-page LCBA Beekeeping Guide and presentation outline in PDF format.

Contact Pam Leavitt to register or for more information:

Please help us get the word out about our bee class. If you know anyone who is thinking about becoming a beekeeper this class will give them a sense of what they need to know to be successful.

Thank you.

*Flyer on page 12.*

### Upcoming Events & Announcements

#### Jan 31st –At Home Beekeeping Series, Alabama Extension Service

**Topic: Seasonal Efficacy of Varroa Treatments,**  
C. Jack, University of Florida

**Join via Zoom at:** <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838>

Join via Facebook Live at: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/>

(If you use Facebook, after logging in, click on more, then events.)

The presentation will be recorded and posted on their Facebook page for 2 weeks.

#### Feb 4th & March 4th - Beginning Beekeeping Classes

Sponsored by LCBA.

### It's Membership Renewal Time PayPal, Credit Card or Check

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2023. Please support our club again this year by renewing your membership. Dues are \$25 per household per calendar year (Jan-Dec 2023). You can renew at our meeting by check, cash, or Square or pay on-line on our website.

Please complete the membership form to update your information. See renewal form on page 10. Mail to Polly Habliston, LCBA Treasurer, with check or click on link below to pay online on the LCBA website.

<http://www.lcbaor.org/membership.htm>

### Welcome New Members

Caleb Hund	Eugene
Lanny Hammett	Eugene
Catie Coman	Eugene
Rebecca Oliphant	Eugene
John Omlin	Eugene

## Welcome New 2023 Officers & Directors!

LCBA welcomes our new board members! The new officers and directors were elected at last year's November meeting. The directory with their contact information is on page 14. You may contact any one of our of our board or committee members if you have any questions.

President: Fonta Molyneaux  
 Vice President: Paula Sablosky  
 Secretary: Matt Stouder  
 Treasurer: Polly Habliston

### Board of Directors:

Ariel Schulze Brian Jackson  
 Diana Smith Pam Leavitt  
 Dennis Groff

Past President: Brian McGinley



Matt

Polly

Paula

Fonta



Dennis

Diana

Ariel

Brian

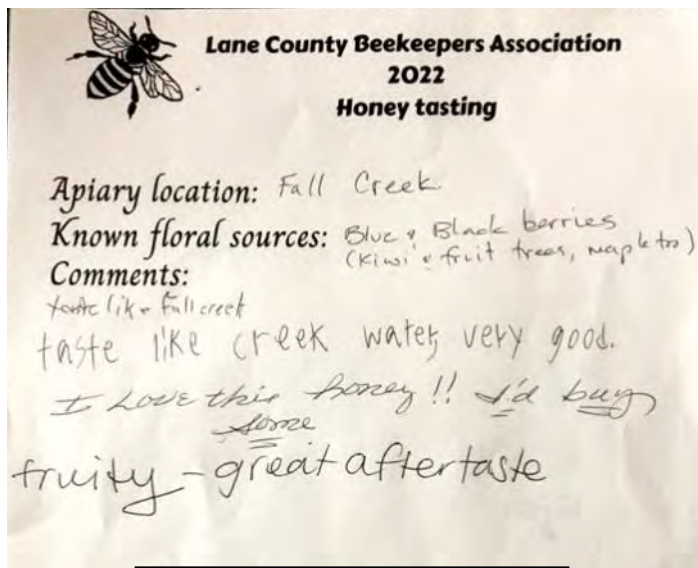
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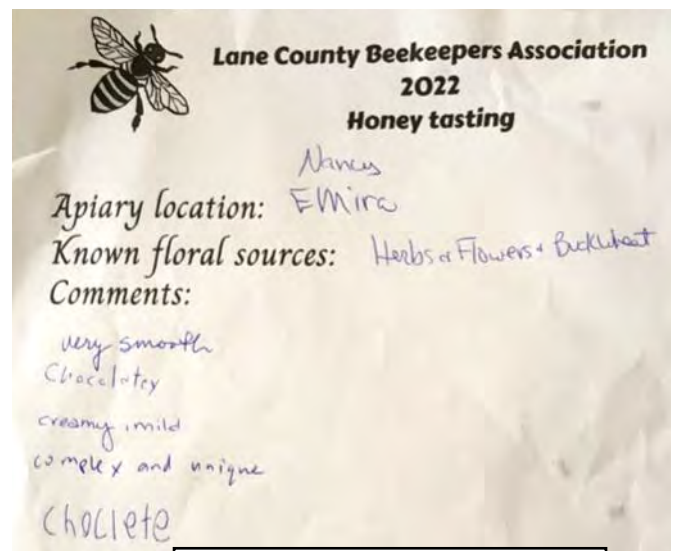
## Honey Tasting

We all had lots of fun tasting all kinds of honey at our November meeting last year. It's so interesting how different they all taste! From dark to light, medicinal to super sweet! Members could make comments on what the honey tasted like

**Thank You Members** who donated their honey from the honey tasting! Proceeds benefit the OSU Bee Lab.



Anita &amp; Arthur's Honey Comments



Nancy Ograin's Honey Comments



## January Winter Bees, by Ken Ograin

**Things To Do Now:** Don't wait for a warm day to do these three things, heft your hive, clear entrance of dead bees and use your sample board. These tasks need to be done on a regular basis throughout the winter. Hefting will let you know if they need food. Everyone should have put an entrance reducer in to help ward off yellow jackets back in July or August. The yellow jackets may be gone for now, but field mice are looking for a warm place to build a nest so we need to keep those entrances reducers in place. Cold and wet weather does not allow your bees to keep up with household duties, so dead bees can accumulate on the bottom board and plug your small entrance used to keep mice out. Sample boards have a bigger use than just checking mite loads. At this time of year sample boards can show if there is brood rearing (you will see dark reddish brown cappings); how far from the cluster bees are feeding (light yellow cappings); and if your hive is being robbed you will see large cappings.

If you find your hive is low on food you need to apply some form of dry sugar. This can be as simple as candy canes, sugar patties, or use a candy board. Check club website under recipes [www.lcbaor.org](http://www.lcbaor.org) for information on emergency feeding and making candy boards.\*

It will be several weeks before you will be able to use liquid sugar. You need to wait until temperatures are consistently about 50 degrees daytime temperature and bees are flying regularly. The same holds true for entrance reducers. Keep them in and clear of dead bees until the bees can keep up with household duties.

While sample boards tell you about mites, they can also tell you about the health of your hive. Learn what mouse droppings look like and the different colors of wax debris and while you are doing that look for mites.

When temperatures are above 50 degrees and the sun is shining this will allow you to evaluate another indicator of your hives health. Here in the Willamette Valley pollen can be found everyday bees can fly. Right now dandelions are blooming in my pasture and Heath/Heather has been in bloom for some time. All we need is a couple of days of warm weather and the filberts will be producing pollen. Filberts have no nectar, but lots of pollen. If you see bees returning with pollen this will be an indication of brood rearing.

All of these checks require no opening of your hive and if you put on a candy board or just a shim you can add sugar candy in less than 10 seconds.

Keep doing the big three; heft, clear out entrance, check sample board until you can do an internal hive inspection. If you find a dead hive in your apiary close it up or get it out of the bee yard before the weather gets warm. Your sample boards will tell you.

Food Stores: See Judy's article in the [November newsletter](#).

Go Your Local Organic Farm to Table Store Go

# Find Beekeeping Supplies Here



- Hive Components
- Frames & Foundation
- Tools & Smokers
- Protective Clothing
- Nutrition & Pest Management
- Books




Mon-Sat 10-6  
Sunday 10-5

downtoearth Eugene.com

532 Olive Street  
541-342-6820



## Hive Clean Up for Dead Outs by Ken Ograin

Finding a dead hive is discouraging, but bees do die. Don't give up! Try and learn from this experience. If you do discover a dead hive you will need to deal with it as soon as possible. If you leave it unattended, you will have a bigger mess on your hands. The decaying bee carcasses stink and draw in other pests. Wax moth can ravage comb that you may want to salvage and destroy the wooden ware. Your empty hive may get robbed of any honey left by other bees and yellow jackets. Any honey that is left behind should be stored in the freezer if your plan on using it. You can also extract it and use for bee feed.

If your hive died over the winter the most common cause is varroa. Other causes are starvation, condensation or viruses. Be aware that before you use the comb or honey left from a dead out you will want to assess why the bees died and make sure it was not from a contagious disease that you will then spread to other hives when you use the salvaged comb or honey stores. Reusing resources from a hive that died from varroa, starvation or moisture is generally not a problem. A great informative video to watch is ["Why Did My Bees Die?"](#) from Michigan State University. All beekeepers should view this one. (Posted on our website, Pests & Diseases tab)

### Clean Up

- First, remove the dead hive from the bee yard as soon as practical. Any honey left in the dead out is an invitation for robbing. Also moisture will also likely build up inside which encourages mold and fermenting honey.
- Take out the frames and bang them against a board or table to dislodge the dead bees. Using your hive tool scrape the burr comb off the top, sides, bottom and ears of the frame. Freeze frames for a minimum of 72 hours and then store in bee-tight containers or store in a bee-tight container with paramoth. The comb, honey and frames may be used in the hive again giving bees a head start on colony building.

Any frames with honey should be stored in the freezer until you are ready to use them. If you see grey mold on your frames the bees can clean that up, but if it's black mold remove the foundation and throw it away. Clean the frames thoroughly, air out, freeze and reuse. If your frames have a minor infestation of wax moths, remove larvae, clean out all the webs, and be sure to freeze everything for a minimum of 72 hours to kill all stages of wax moth or store in air-tight container with paramoth.

Any uncured honey frames (uncapped) or moisture can and will ferment which will be toxic to bees. If you smell alcohol, it's fermented. Do not use!

- Next scrape and clean the empty brood and honey super boxes, bottom boards, top covers and inner covers with a soapy solution, rinse well, then using bleach water do a final wash and let air dry before storing. Mix bleach to water at 3 tablespoons to a gallon of water.

Remove old comb from your hive on a regular basis. Old comb contains pesticide residue and pathogens and can adversely effect the health of your hive. If you can't see thru the comb when holding the frame up in sunlight, it's time to discard the old comb. Old comb can be used in swarm traps.



### Educational Videos for New Beekeepers

#### OSU Honey Bee Lab Videos

Lighting a Smoker	Finding the Queen
Early Spring Inspection	How to Mark a Queen
American Foulbrood	Chalkbrood
Swarms	

[In the Bees with the OSU Honey Bee Lab](#)

#### Wooden Ware Assembly

[How to Assemble a Frame](#)

[Assembling a Standard Bee Box](#)

#### Beginning Beekeeping Videos

Shonnard's Nursery in Corvallis has a series of beginning beekeeper videos available on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9qbDVPNB12i2yzh7L5h9ng/videos>

#### Other Useful Links

[Life Cycle of the Honeybee](#)

[First 21 Days of a Bee's Life](#)

[How Varroa Destructor Devastates Honey Bee Colonies](#)



**In Memory of  
Jimmie Lee Rundall  
9/11/29 – 11/14 /22**

Jim joined our club January 2008. He started beekeeping when he was 13 years old. When we held our meetings at the EWEB facility our membership grew so much they kicked us out. Jim secured our new meeting place at Trinity United Methodist Church as he was their building facilitator. He has served on the LCBA board many times, helped out at our events and has always been there to help with set up for our meeting and manage the sound system. He will be truly missed!

Jim was also involved in so many other organizations and was a Master Gardener and taught fruit tree pruning.

The family will be having a Celebration of Life later in the Spring. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to United Way of Lane or a charity of your choice.

LCBA made a donation to United Way and we also received a donation in his memory.

Obituary: [Jimmie Lee Rundall Obituary - Eugene Register-Guard \(registerguard.com\)](https://www.registerguard.com/obituaries/jimmie-lee-rundall)

work table in a large figure eight and soon what looked almost like a springtime swarm of honeybees descending on this mid-winter feast in honor of our deceased. It was in this moment of awe and through my falling tears that I shared my grief with the bees. Not through song or rhyming prose. Simply stories and memories in honor of the precious lives no longer with us. May they rest in peace.

I first met Jim during my first year at the LCBA where we worked side by side at a bee event tending the LCBA booth. Jim shared stories of his beekeeping spanning 75 years of working with bees. I often quoted him at 90 years old saying to me there was never a season that he wasn't completely changed by bees. Where some new bit of knowledge didn't shake the foundation of what he thought he knew. So much wisdom there! It truly was a joy to know and love such an honorable man who gave so much service to the club since the beginning.

My Aunt Nikeeta was absolutely enamored with my beekeeping. She would often remark with wonder that I came to it. She handed out honey to her neighbors, doctors and friends with pride over my accomplishment. My cousin Jenn was one of my biggest fans and cheerleaders! She would say TOWANDA! (A fried Green tomatoes reference) anytime I shared anything about beekeeping. What started as an inside joke when I caught my first swarm many years ago became our battle cry throughout her long journey with brain cancer and she always until the end of her precious life of 40 years referred to me as her bee charming cousin Fonta. And lastly Dakini Skybear the biggest, sweetest bear of a dog you ever met! And many folks did meet her and love her. She accompanied me throughout my beekeeping journey by my side patiently watching as my devotion grew as did her tolerance of bees as they flew all around her and she modeled ultimate grace and majesty laying at my feet as I worked. I think the bees viewed her as a peaceful bear who always minded her own beeswax.

It is said "Where there is great grief, there was great love" and truly our stories and shared memories are eternal..... for more info on the origins of Telling the Bees follow the link to this excellent article by Colleen English <https://daily.jstor.org/telling-the-bees/>.

**Telling the Bees  
by Fonta Molyneaux**

The year 2022 left grief in her wake at our homestead as we rang in the new year. From November 10 to December 30 I lost my favorite Aunt Nikeeta, my cousin Jennifer, and the best dog I ever had Dakini Skybear. It was during this same time frame that the LCBA lost one of its members and past vice-president Jim Rundall. This surge of death in my life and our community urged me to express my grief in a way unique to bee culture, something all of those who passed had personally shared my delight in.

Telling of the bees is a ritual that involves notifying honeybees of major events in a beekeeper's life especially around death. Although this ritual is characterized by its Celtic origins, we know the honeybee has been a cross cultural symbol of life after death since Ancient Egypt and even before. Throughout history and civilization, we see this theme echo throughout time and place. Although these types of rituals are less common in our modern society the nature of its practice throughout time points to the special relationship between humans and honeybees. Sharing our grief can be one intimate way to maintain such a special connection to both bees and our loved ones who have passed.

It was with this mindset and nursing exquisite grief that I went out to the apiary and created my own version of this ancient act of love on a sunny 65 degree day in late November. I carefully poured an entire quart of honey out on my



## Meeting Highlights, by Paula Sablosky, LCBA Secretary

### “All About Propolis”, by Judy Scher, LCBA Member & OMB Board Member/Mentor

Propolis is a valuable product that is unappreciated. Propolis in the beehive is gooey and sticks to equipment. Why do bees need it. Propolis is #1 defense against pathogens in the hive. The gooey stuff is well known to inhibit growth of bacteria, fungus and some mold. Bees use propolis to close the gaps in the hive and propolis also provides a moisture barrier in the hive. It is believed (not definitive) that bees after cleaning out the debris in cells after the new bees emerge that they put a barrier of propolis in the empty cells for a barrier. The bees will propolis intruders, like mice, too large to remove from hive.

How do bees harvest propolis? Bees collect resin from buds of trees—alder, beech, birch, conifers, elm and some flower buds. The finished propolis contains resins, essential oil, vegetal balsams, wax and pollen. The bees collect the various items by placing it in their corbicula (pollen basket), then mix it with wax and chew it with their mandibles when placing it in the hive. The bees have been known to pilfer propolis from equipment also. Propolis is a Greek word meaning “in front of the city”, when the bees enter their “city (hive)” they have to wipe their feet.

What do humans use propolis for? Humans use it in toothpaste, tincture for sore throat and wound dressing as an anti-septic. It is also additive to lotion, lip balm and chewing gum and propolis was found in violin varnish of Guarneri and maybe Stradivarius violins.

Commercially, humans harvest propolis by the use of plastic propolis traps on top of the hive without a cover. The bees cover the openings, beekeepers then remove it from the hive, place in the freezer, then twist and pop the clumps of propolis off. Judy harvests propolis when she cleans her boxes every four to five years by scraping the propolis into a jar. She then adds Everclear and leaves the mixture to sit for at least two months and shakes occasionally. Judy then pours the mixture through Remy cloth to obtain a “clean” mixture. Then she uses a double boiler to evaporate off the ethyl alcohol or you can do the same thing by leaving it outside on a really hot day with a screen to cover it. The leftover gunk at the bottom of the jar can be used to “paint” the inside of new equipment.

Judy makes lotions and salves with 20% propolis in an Everclear tincture. She blends the oils in a double boiler. Oils must be hot (at least 100 degrees F) to blend, add the warm water as you blend the oils. Propolis will precipitate out if mixture is too cool.

The recipes to make a solution of 20% or 50% propolis tincture is in her slide show presentation posted on the LCBA website “Talks” tab. [Underappreciated Products of the Hive \(lcbaor.org\)](http://lcbaor.org)

**NOTE:** Judy’s presentation is posted on YouTube. Contact Nancy for link [nancy.ograin@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ograin@gmail.com)



Bee collecting resin from tree buds



Mice entombed in propolis inside hive.





## **“Bees in the Cities”**

**by Dewey M. Caron**

At one time bee colonies were a feature of most farms – now they may be found on nearly every city block. Is the increase of honey bees in urban areas a cause for concern? If not managed, urban colonies, like their suburban, rural and feral counterparts, will swarm; swarms may scare city dwellers more so than country folks. Urban bees might get water at sites that interfere with neighbors. Of concern to beekeepers are there enough resources to support all those urban colonies?

Mike Burgett, Emeritus Professor of Entomology/Apiculture, and I wrote a chapter about keeping bees in the urban environment way back in 1978 for an Urban Agriculture book. Back then bees were honey producers. More recently US Department of Agriculture (USDA) statistics indicate pollination fees as the main income source for commercial beekeepers. Most USDA services are directed toward large scale bee husbandry. Urban beekeepers often have entirely different reasons for keeping bee colonies.

Bees are now commonplace in even the largest cities. New York City legalized honey bees in 2000, Chicago in 2011 and Boston and Washington DC in 2014. It was widely acknowledged that beekeeping was practiced in cities prior to legalization. In Washington DC a colony of bees (on federal White House property, not city property), was started in 2009, during the beginning of the Obama administration. Charlie Brandts, a Virginia beekeeper and employee at the White House, was their keeper. <https://www.beeeculture.com/charlie-brandts-white-house-bees/>.

The consequences of adding colonies of honey bees in cities has not been extensively studied. I estimate around 40% of articles indicate keeping honey bees in cities as positive, 30% indicate negative effects and 30% of studies show neither positive nor negative effect. If you would like some examples of the literature that indicates the negative/positive opinions,/study results, please send me an email and I will return web address for about a dozen papers, [dmcaron@udel.edu](mailto:dmcaron@udel.edu).

Urban beekeepers have the opportunity to start/learn beekeeping from other beekeepers. In Portland, for example, Glen Andresen of Bridgetown bees, supplies the bees, and performs dozens of individual visits to beekeepers throughout the urban Portland area. Emily Schmiedel of Jacobsen Salt Co, which purchased Bee Local, provides one-on-one instruction as well as offering beekeeping classes. Using urban bees she is actively helping to rewild a former industrial site along the Willamette River.

This past spring Best Bees was looking for a beekeeper in Portland Oregon. <https://bestbees.com/jobs/portland-beekeeper/> Their message was: “We are a full-service beekeeping operation headquartered in Boston. We deliver, install, and manage beehives for residences and businesses in 22 cities nationwide, including the Portland metro area. The data we collect via our hive visits supports honey bee health research at our sister non-profit The Urban Beekeeping Laboratory and Bee Sanctuary....Our beekeepers are managed from our Boston office and we offer flexible scheduling to accommodate your schedule. Ideally, candidates will be available for at least 2 - 4 beekeeping routes per month, though more frequent scheduling may be available. We offer a competitive hourly rate and are seeking a beekeeper to start ASAP.” They did hire a part-time individual in Portland.

Montréal-based Alvéole, founded in 2013, focuses on use of honey bees for urban environmental education. This spring they indicated they “currently manage nearly 3,400 beehives, mostly installed on roofs or grounds of almost 600 companies, schools and organizations within 22 North America cities including New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Sacramento, Vancouver and Toronto. Backed by Edō Capital, a venture-capital fund, Alvéole charges an average of \$2,000 a year per hive, offering its corporate clients a package including candle-making courses and branded souvenirs.

[https://www.alveole.buzz/roadmap-to-greener-cities-with-urban-beekeeping/?utm\\_campaign=Alv%C3%A9ole%20Newsletter&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=Intro&utm\\_term=Blog%3A%20package%20announcement&utm\\_content=December%20Newsletter%202022%20-%20EN](https://www.alveole.buzz/roadmap-to-greener-cities-with-urban-beekeeping/?utm_campaign=Alv%C3%A9ole%20Newsletter&utm_source=email&utm_medium=Intro&utm_term=Blog%3A%20package%20announcement&utm_content=December%20Newsletter%202022%20-%20EN)

Bees are here to stay in our cities large and small. Urban beekeepers far outnumber their rural counterparts. Power to the city bees – and their keepers.





It's the first program of its kind in the United States!

## Master Beekeeper Program Adds Groundbreaking Spanish-Language Track as it Celebrates 10th year



Carolyn Breece  
Facility Research  
Assistant

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Two years ago, Elva Webster knew nothing about bees. Now she's on her way to tending her own hives as she progresses through a groundbreaking Spanish-language version of a Master Beekeepers program.

The Oregon State University Extension Service's [Master Beekeeper Program](#), which celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, added the [Spanish track](#) in 2020. It offers the same classes, which teach science-based beekeeping techniques to participants who start out at the apprentice level with a mentor, work through a journey level and progress to the prestigious level of Master Beekeeper.

Carolyn Breece, faculty research assistant and coordinator of the Spanish-language version of Master Beekeepers, said it's the first program of its kind in the United States. The need for such a program became clear during an OSU beekeeping workshop for commercial beekeepers and crews. As the day went on, she noticed Latino crew members bunched together talking in their first language.

"When trying to translate information in your head to a different language it's a lot more work," Breece said. "The benefit of having the class in their native language is that they can relax and talk to each other. It's a much better experience and the response has been really positive. Participants are engaged. They are very happy to be there learning about bees."

Participants join for multiple reasons – to join a crew, make their own honey or just for the fascination of bees. But there was no formal training for Spanish-speakers interested in beekeeping. That's why Breece stepped in, aided by a team of colleagues and supported by Jen Larsen, who coordinates Oregon's Master Beekeepers.

"One of the areas in which the Master Beekeeper program shines is our mission to provide an in-depth, beginner-level educational experience to beekeepers all around our region," Larsen said. "Now, with our ability to transmit this information to Spanish-speaking beekeepers, we have filled a gap in our reach that was badly needed. I am so excited to see where this goes, and how we can grow the number of offerings we can provide in Spanish."

To read complete article click on link below:

[Master Beekeeper program adds groundbreaking Spanish-language track as it celebrates 10th year | OSU Extension Service \(oregonstate.edu\)](#)

## SUNFLOWERS MAKE BUMBLEBEES POOP

Excerpt from *Catch the Buzz*, Jan 5, 2023

Sunflowers make Bumblebees poop—a lot. Here's why that's good.

Story by Elizabeth Anne Brown

Bumblebees and other pollinators face many threats, including [pesticide exposure](#), [climate change](#), habitat loss due to agriculture and development, and pathogens that [ravage multiple species](#). But a recent finding may help lighten their load.



A common eastern bumblebee (*Bombus impatiens*) gathers pollen in a field of yellow sunflowers, plants whose pollen helps the insects expel parasites. © Photograph by Bill Berry, Getty

Previous studies have shown sunflower pollen can work like a medicine for bumblebees afflicted by a parasite called *Crithidia bombi*, a single-celled organism that takes up residence in the bee's gut and harms their health. But scientists couldn't explain how sunflower pollen vanquished *C. bombi*—did it boost the bees' immune function, or perhaps poison the parasite directly?

New [research](#), published in the *Journal of Insect Physiology*, shows the answer is deceptively simple. "Sunflower pollen makes bumblebees poo a whole lot," says lead author Jonathan Giacomini, which flushes the parasite out.

Plant products like nectar and pollen are a treasure trove of potential insect medicines that scientists are just beginning to understand, he adds. "There are natural things out there that bees are interacting with that can be beneficial for them," Giacomini says. And by making changes to the landscape, scientists hope we can help give bees a fighting chance.

If you happen upon a fuzzy, buzzing, flying creature in eastern North America, there's a strong chance it's a common eastern bumblebee (*Bombus impatiens*).

Yellow and black striped with a rump covered in soft hairs, they're social insects that live in colonies and love a good crevice—they build their homes in birdhouses, woodpiles, abandoned burrows, and dense grasses.

*We are here to share current happenings in the bee industry. Bee Culture gathers and shares articles published by outside sources. For more information about this specific article, please visit the original publish source: [Sunflowers make bees poop—a lot. Here's why that's good. \(msn.com\)](#)*

## These 8 Winter-Blooming Plants Give Bees Needed Nourishment

### OSU Oregon Extension Service

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Bees and other pollinators out and about during the dark days of winter look to gardeners for the nourishment that keeps them going until the more abundant seasons of the year arrive. There aren't that many plants that flower in winter, but what's out there adds much-needed brightness to the garden and sustenance for pollinators. Andony Melathopoulos suggested the following winter-blooming plants:



**Brassicas (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, mustard)**  
**Hazelnut (Corylus)**  
**Oregon grape (Mahonia)**  
**Heath and heather (Erica and Calluna)**

**Winter jasmine (Jasminum nudiflora)**  
**Burkwood viburnum (Viburnum x burkwoodii)**  
**Sweet box (Sarcococcus confusa)**  
**Witch hazel (Hamamelis)**

Read the complete article which includes information on these plants at:

[These 8 winter-blooming plants give bees needed nourishment | OSU Extension Service \(oregonstate.edu\)](#)



**IN PERSON BEGINNING BEEKEEPING CLASSES  
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What you need to know to be successful when you start your journey. The first three months as a new beekeeper requires knowledge of bees, equipment, installation, feeding, inspections and care of the colony.

Includes a 65-page PDF LCBA Beekeeping Guide

Pre-Registration Required, Class sizes are limited

CONTACT: PAM LEAVITT: Phone: 541-344-4228

Email: [pamseaver2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pamseaver2000@yahoo.com)

\*NOTE: Top bar, Warre and Treatment Free Beekeeping not covered.

[www.lcbaor.org](http://www.lcbaor.org)



**Classified Ads**

Bee-related classified ads cost \$5.00/month for non-members and are free to members. Classified ads run for three issues and may be renewed by contacting the editor. Bee-related business ads start at \$35. To place an ad, contact Nancy Ograin by the 1st of the month. 541-935-7065 or via e-mail [nancy.ograin@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.ograin@gmail.com).

### **"Bee Funny" T-Shirts**

100% of the proceeds to the OSU Bee Research Lab, Ramesh Sagili.

Support Bee Research!

<https://www.beetanical-apiary.com/bee-funny-shop>



### **Support Dr. Sagili's OSU Bee Lab**

Oregon State Beekeepers Association has set up a fundraiser to help raise monies for Dr. Sagili's research and students. You can make a difference by donating today and help in raising research funds. Every little bit helps! Thank You!

[\*\*Donate Here\*\*](#)

[Fundraiser by Rebecca Fain : Help Us Save The Honey Bees \(gofundme.com\)](#)

For discounts on American Bee Journal subscriptions contact Nancy Ograin for discount form.

### **Honey Donations Request**

Every year the club has asked for donations of honey and many members have been generous in the past. We are again asking if you have any to share, please contact Katharine Hunt, [keehhunt@gmail.com](mailto:keehhunt@gmail.com). All donations will be combined to be bottled by the Ograin's, labelled per Oregon law, and sold locally.

The funds generated are used for donations to the Honey Bee Lab at OSU. Thank you if you are able to donate.

Advertise Here

### **2022 LCBA New/Renewal Memberships**

\$25 per year per calendar year (Jan-Dec 2022) per household or family.

Please remit payment to:

LCBA Treasurer, Polly Habliston  
1258 Dalton Dr., Eugene, OR 97404  
[polly@uoregon.edu](mailto:polly@uoregon.edu)

Membership forms for new members and renewals are available on the LCBA website. [Click here](#) to access.

### **NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## Refractometer

LCBA has three refractometers to check the moisture content in your honey. Remember honey is not honey unless the moisture content is 18.2% or below. We will have it available at our monthly meetings to test your honey. If unable to attend call or email one of our members to schedule a time to check out your honey.

Eugene - Judy Scher, 541-344-2144,  
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Elmira - Ken Ograin 541-935-7065,  
[woodrt@pacinfo.com](mailto:woodrt@pacinfo.com)

Cottage Grove - Francis Rothauge 541-520-8391  
(no email)

## Links



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Coalition**

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**Varroa Management Decision Tool**

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<https://www.honey.com/>



**Honey Bee Health**

Resources, Research and Beekeeping  
videos

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**Beltsville Bee Lab**

[How To Send A Sample To Beltsville, MD for Diagnosis](#)

The go to for American foulbrood.

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