



November 2022 NEWSLETTER

LANE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
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President's Message by Brian McGinley

As I write my last President's Message for 2022, the skies are threatening snow in Lane County. The threat is more relevant for mountain regions above 3000 feet, but the weather message is clearly wet and cold in the valley. Seems like a good backdrop to remind members to prepare your hives to manage internal moisture and the colder temperatures. Excess moisture created by bee respiration in the hive makes the colony's task of surviving the winter months challenging, by requiring more food to sustain its core temperature.

Your hives should be set up to either direct internal condensed moisture toward the inner walls of the hive for draining or to absorb this moisture so it does not drip on the colony cluster. Attaching an insulating foam board to the inside of the outer cover has proven useful for collecting excess moisture and may also reduce heat loss. Using a moisture box containing an absorbent material (ie towels) is an established method for capturing moisture, but requires periodic replacement of the material. Last month's [October newsletter](#) has information on insulation and moisture boxes and there is also plenty of information on the internet to check out options and specifics for you to help your colonies with excess moisture.

Insulating hives with a seasonal wrap is a method that can help your colonies retain the heat they create in the cluster. There is still debate in the community of Willamette Valley beekeepers about the need to wrap hives in our more moderate climate. So you'll have to wrestle with the pros and cons before making a choice. If you chose to wrap your hives, remember to keep the top entrance of your hives open to help shunt excess moisture out of the hive. Good luck this winter with hive survival. Hopefully the combination of hive health, ample food stores and moisture management will carry your colonies through the winter.

I have enjoyed serving as your president these past two years and will continue to serve as past-president next year.

GENERAL MEETING

November 15, 2022

Presentation Time 7:00 pm

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

In-Person Meeting

Doors open at 6:30pm

General Meeting Program

Topic: "All About Propolis"

Speaker: Judy Sher

Program begins at 7:00pm

Followed by

"Honey Tasting"

Bring a small jar to share

Trinity United Methodist Church

440 Maxwell Road, Eugene

Turn West off River Road (South of Beltline)

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Upcoming Webinar

Nov 29th - Liquid Gold: A Crash Course on the Types and Properties of Honey, P. Lau, USDA-ARS

Time: 4:30pm-5:30pm PST

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.

Project Apis m - Milestone

Project Apis m. (PAm) is a nonprofit organization funding practical honey bee research and graduate scholarships. They have passed an impressive milestone, celebrating their ten-million-dollar mark of funding honey bee research!

PAm has awarded \$350,000 for research at the OSU Bee Lab. Dr. Ramesh Sagili has received funding for his research along with Dr. Priya Chakrabarti Basu, Andony Melathopoulos and Ellen Topitzhofer.

The largest sources of money raised comes from The National Honey Board and corporate sponsors, in particular Costco along with beekeeping organizations and beekeepers.

This year PAm just announced it will match any donation given before December 31st. LCBA will be sending in our donation and if you would like to help out visit their website. All dollars will be doubled! All beekeepers will benefit from their work.

[Project Apis m. - Home](#)

Welcome New Member

Caleb Hund Eugene

November Honey Tasting

Please bring a small container to share with our club members. This is an opportunity for members to “show off” the fruits of their bee’s labors. If you think honey is honey, please come and sample the amazing differences in what the “little ladies” bring back to the hive.

Honey is flavored by the floral sources available in the range of their foraging trips. The color and flavors are a product of these flights.

Judy Scher will also give a short presentation on “All About Propolis”.

No December Meeting

2022 January Meeting: Dr. Ramesh Sagili, OSU Honey Bee Lab, will be speaking to us at our January meeting next year. See you in January!

Happy Holidays!

A Bee Plate for Oregon!



Andony Melathopoulos and Ramesh Sagili saw an opportunity to support two key parts of their bee research programs through license plate revenues.

The plate features two of Oregon’s most iconic bees, the honey bee and the wild yellow faced bumble bee. It’s designed to showcase the unique Oregon landscape of natural areas, agricultural fields and backyard gardens that help support the state’s over 600 species.

To get the plate produced they have to presell 3,000 plates (i.e., 3,000 Oregonians are needed to put money down for a voucher on a plate). The revenue goes for two Oregon State University Horticulture programs - the Pollinator Health and the Honey Bee Lab.

We need everyone’s help to get this plate launched! You will be able to start buying vouchers soon.

Purchase a Pollinator Paradise plate and help support the bees of Oregon! Learn more at:

<https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/home/oregon-pollinator-license-plate>

Food Stores November Through Early Spring

Submitted by Judy Scher

One of the most important winter chores is to lift the hive body from the bottom to check if it's light in weight. If so, it is low in honey stores. In the winter and early spring your bees will starve if they consume all of their honey reserves or they move to the edge of the hive where they no longer contact honey frames. If you have a light hive when the bees are too cold to fly, feed a solid source of pure carbohydrate in the form of fondant candy or sugar patties. It is very easy to apply on one of those on 50 degree days where you can quickly lift the hive cover and place the candy directly on the frames or inner cover. Bees love fondant more than any other candy in winter months. It's soft, therefore easily and rapidly consumed. It's fun to make – just be sure you don't eat it before you get it to your hives!

***Reminder:** Bees will not consume sugar water if temperature is below 50 degrees, use sugar cakes/patties or candy canes.

Bee Fondant Recipe

(Note: When doing this for the first time, **make small batches**. 4 cups sugar to 1 cup water is a good amount)

1 part water: 4 parts sugar (by volume or weight - I find that it doesn't matter.)

Put in pan and heat and stir until it comes to a boil.

Don't let sugar burn! If it turns brown or dark tan, it will make the bees sick.

Boil for 3 minutes with cover on pan.

Boil uncovered until soft ball stage* (starts at 238 degrees F, ends at 240 degrees F)

(Note: in my kitchen the soft ball stage is reached at 239 degrees F)

Turn off heat and cool to 200 degrees F. Whip with a whisk until white (give it 5 – 10 minutes).

Pour onto waxed paper on cookie sheets. Cool undisturbed.

Cut up into squares, separate with waxed paper, store in plastic bag in freezer.

When feeding bees, warm fondant to room temp and put on top of frames or around hole in inner cover. Do not expose bees to cold for more than several seconds.

* The "soft ball" sugar stage is described in wonderful web site, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgRvA9Lk_N8

The different stages are compared at around 4:39 minutes on this video.

Another note: Don't worry if you mess up and the fondant is too soft or too hard - the bees will appreciate it anyway!

Judy's Pure Cane Sugar Patties

A short, but sure-fire way to get emergency sugar to your winter bees.

Prepare sugar cakes by pouring out pure cane sugar in a bowl and adding warm water.

Stir until the sugar feels like beach sand.

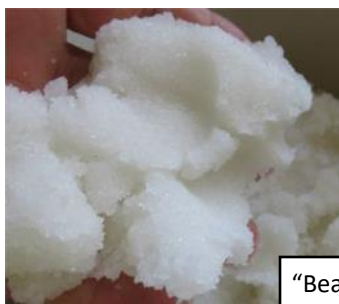
Make these into patties (4 - 6 inches in diameter) and press over waxed paper.

Before applying to the hive, trim the paper so bees can easily access the patties.

Apply on frames on the top box where the bees are clustered.

Remember the bee space; you will need to use a spacer between the patties and the cover, if not using a moisture box or inner cover above the patties.

Store unused patties in the freezer.



"Beach sand" texture



Hungry bees consuming pure sugar patties

2022 OSBA Fall Conference

The fall conference had a great turn out this year and many LCBA members attended in-person. It was great to see so many members there. There were a variety of speakers and the camaraderie of beekeepers is amazing! There were many great speakers and we learned a lot. The conference also raises funds each year for bee research.

Affiliate Club Donations: Total donated by the OSBA affiliate bee clubs to Dr. Ramesh Sagili for the bee lab was \$15,600 and the Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA) matched up to \$500 for each donation, \$4,600, for a total of \$20,200! In addition OSBA donated \$12,000 from last year's auction.

LCBA Donations: Honey sales and used equipment sales this year allowed LCBA to donate \$2000 to the OSU Bee Lab \$1000 to the Oregon Bee Project and \$200 to Project APIS m! We could not have done this without your support

Thank You LCBA Members!



Brian McGinley presenting LCBA's \$2000 donation to Dr. Ramesh Sagili for the OSU Bee Lab.



Brian McGinley presenting Andony Melathopoulos, OSU Pollinator Health, \$1000 donation from LCBA for the Oregon Bee Project.

Left to right: Brian McGinley, Pam Leavitt, Andony Melathopoulos, Morris Ostrofsky



Robin Martins, Brian McGinley, Pam Leavitt, Andony Melathopoulos, Morris Ostrofsky, Mike France, Les Leavitt, Jason Rowan, Rick Olson



2022 new members Ariel Schulze, Robin Martins & Mariah Kimpton who won LCBA's free conference drawing.



Ada McClory & Jean Thompson

Auction Proceeds



LCBA member's Elizabeth & Jason Rowan won the raffle drawing!



LCBA member Becca Fain was the successful bidder at the oral auction!

Each year OSBA has an auction at the conference to raise funds for bee research. There were many auction items donated this year and over \$22,000 was raised! These monies will be donated next year. George Hanson, Foothills Honey Company, donated two of his beautiful caustic paintings. One was raffled off and the other auctioned. There were lots of wonderful items at the auction this year.

In addition each year GloryBee matches donations up to \$10,000 for bee research from the auction!

Thank you Glory Bee!



Robin Martins



Ada McClory

LCBA Honey Contest Winners

1st Place Dark - Nancy Ograin
1st Place Amber - Robin Martins
2nd Place Dark - Ada McClory
3rd Place Light - Fonta Molyneaux

Robin also won the "Sweepstakes" Award of \$75.

Congratulations LCBA Members!

Robin's 3 jars of honey was auctioned off for \$150 for the bee lab!

Other LCBA Attendees



Dewey Caron, Becca Fain, Rick Olson, Nancy Ograin, Lynn Hellweg, Max Kuhn, Mike France, Pam Leavitt, Fonta Molyneaux, Ariel Schulze, Les Leavitt

November Elections - Slate of Officers

The following is the Slate of Officers for the 2023 year that we will be voting on at our November meeting.

President: Fonta Molyneaux
 Vice President: Paula Sablosky
 Secretary: Matt Stouder
 Treasurer: Polly Habliston
 Board of Directors : Ariel Schulze
 (5 positions available) Diana Smith
 Dennis Groff
 Brian Jackson
 Pam Leavitt

Learn all about the candidates that will be serving you next year. Peruse their statements.



Candidate for President Fonta Molyneaux

Being a member of the LCBA for five years and on the board of directors for four has been such a highlight of my beekeeping adventure! I have learned so much from this community and I have loved also contributing to the collective knowledge of our club.

We truly have a very special legacy here to carry into the future! I think we stay true to our ethos when we center education, skill sharing and community outreach as pinnacles of club culture! We have a diverse membership in our club from backyard beekeepers, small farmers like myself, all the way to commercial beekeepers with thousands of hives. I want to continue to create a vessel where all beekeepers regardless of scale feel nourished by the community and resource sharing our club creates.

In these pivotal times when bee health is so challenged it will be our collective innovation that moves our important work forward. I bring to the presidency a robust beekeeping practice, educational offerings, community stewardship and a passion for bees that is effervescent! I look forward to representing LCBA as president in 2023 and beyond. For more information about my work with bees and our farm: www.wildeverlasting.com.

Candidate for Vice-President Paula Sablosky



I wish to continue my contribution to LCBA and the beekeeping community as a whole by offering to serve as Vice-President for the 2023 year. I am going into my sixth year as a beekeeper and I have achieved many personal goals. I am currently working on attaining the Master Level of the OSU Master Beekeeper Program. A vast portion of attaining the certification is to provide public service and education. I am also a graduate of Sun Queen School-Nectar Path. By working with both educational experiences, I feel it is more important than ever to share the knowledge with the world.

LCBA provides these functions by inviting new and more experienced beekeepers to learn and share information. I am very impressed by the very experienced volunteers who run LCBA and their willingness to help others and their desire to educate all of the beekeeping community.



Candidate for Secretary Matt Stouder

I joined the LCBA in 2017 after a few years of thinking about becoming a beekeeper. Since that time, I've been learning as much as I can about honeybees.

The club was instrumental in helping me successfully overwinter my hive in that first year, as well as giving me knowledge that otherwise would have taken several seasons to accumulate. I was amazed by the wonderful folks who were willing to share so much knowledge with new beekeepers and knew I wanted to be a part of such a great organization.

The following year, my interest in beekeeping grew, and so did my apiary. I joined the OSU Master Beekeeper Program and received my Journey certification this past year. Currently, I have 15 hives at my home apiary, and I'm enrolled at the Master level in the Master Beekeeping Program. I have thoroughly enjoyed the relationships I've formed within LCBA and at OSU, as well as from being a mentor to others over the past several years. I would like to continue to serve on the board because I feel it is important to give back to the club and its members, the beekeeping community in general, and to help educate the public about the importance of pollinators.



Candidate for Treasurer
Polly Habliston

I have really enjoyed being a part of the Board and serving as Treasurer these past many years. My husband, Doug, and I have been LCBA members since 2007 and have been keeping bees for fourteen years. I completed the Master Beekeeper Apprenticeship program in 2013, but realize our success as beekeepers is largely due to the tremendous support provided by the club.

LCBA works tirelessly to educate and keep the membership up to date on all aspects of beekeeping. This is especially important as we battle climate change, mites, yellow jackets, and any number of other issues. I'm happy to give back a little, as treasurer, in thanks for the camaraderie and wealth of experience LCBA continues to provide.



Candidate for Board
Ariel Schulze

My name is Ariel Schulze. I began beekeeping in 2021 with my partner, Hamm. That first Spring, we began by rescuing swarms and ended the season by overwintering all ten of our hives. This year we have expanded our apiary to about 25 hives between several out yards within Eugene and Pleasant Hill.

Growing our beekeeping business this quickly has required that I learn to recognize, problem solve, and take action on the variety of issues that we've encountered during the last two seasons. I enjoy that beekeeping connects us to ancient traditions but also necessitates ongoing education in order to adapt to evolving problems. Area specific information, like that provided by the LCBA, has been an invaluable resource.

In becoming a board member of the Lane County Beekeeper's Association, my goal is to be an active member of the local beekeeping community, further my own knowledge of the subject, and assist with community outreach in understanding the importance of pollinators. I hope to help attract other new members to the group, both new beekeepers looking for reliable information and retaining the valuable engagement of experienced beekeepers.



Candidate for Board
Diana Smith

I grew up on a self-sustaining farm in Bulgaria where we grew, raised, canned and preserved all our food. While we rotated through many different vegetables and animals, including silk worms, the one constant thing on the farm was the bees. My father kept upwards of 40 hives, and I helped him build frames, spin the centrifuge and make sugar syrup as far as I can remember. We would move the hives from the clover fields to the acacia forest and back to the farm.

Living on a self-sustaining farm came with unrelenting back-breaking labor which a young teenager couldn't appreciate. I arrived in the United States 27 years ago with a full academic scholarship as an exchange student. I soon started to wonder why store-bought food tasted so bad.

Long story short, life took a full circle and I ended up raising dairy goats and a huge garden while I was bringing up my two children. I got back into beekeeping last year because I wanted to have a shared multi-generational experience to propagate the knowledge and passion of beekeeping together with my father in Bulgaria and my teenage son.

As a Board Member, I hope to bring my international beekeeping perspective and skills as a software developer to LCBA. I am enthusiastic about contributing new technology skills to the association as well as involving the younger generations in the preservation of these all-important



Candidate for Board
Dennis Groff

Hello! My name is Dennis and I have been an avid beekeeper for about 12 years.

Some people may consider me an alternative beekeeper because I maintain a variety of different types of hives. I am currently keeping a langstroth, top bar, and layens (horizontal) type hives and enjoy the challenges and techniques of maintaining each type.

Although I do collect some honey each fall, my primary objective, for all my hives, is to improve the genetics of our local queens.

As a member of the board of directors I will contribute all I can to further the excellence of the LCBA.



Candidate for Board Brian Jackson

I started beekeeping years ago as a hobby after building a top bar hive. My hobby developed into a business and now I own Honey Paddle Farm with my wife, Amber Jackson. Honey Paddle Farm is located on the McKenzie River where we grow cut flowers for people to enjoy and cover crops for the bees.

I received my certification from the OSU Extension Master Beekeeper Apprenticeship program in 2020. I have volunteered with the LCBA as a board member for the last couple of years and look forward to talking about bees with other enthusiasts.



Candidate for Board Pam Leavitt

I have been a member of the Lane County Beekeepers for many years. I have held the office of Vice President and President in the past. I am the coordinator for the Bee School as well as a member of the current Board of Directors. I would like to continue to be a member, working with those who lead the club. We survived the Covid-19 shut-downs and it is great to be back in the church meeting in person.

My goal for this coming year is to increase attendance at the monthly meetings to provide education and support for beekeepers, especially anyone new to this valuable and important pastime. Thank you for considering me for a Board of Director position.



November Beekeeping Tips by Chuck Hunt, LCBA Member

1. The bees are quiet now, with flight only occurring during warm periods of the day, perhaps when there is a break in the clouds and some sunshine hits the hives. It was a late year and warm until the later part of October. Make sure that your hives are secure from debris from windstorms and other weather and that no animals (such as skunks or raccoons) are disturbing the bees. Visually check your hives and also make sure that hives are very slightly tipped forward in order to properly shed rain and moisture.
2. Make sure that your supers are safely stored and not being damaged by mice or other predators. Watch for wax moths if supers are stored where it is warm. In general, the weather has cooled enough that supers stored at outside temperatures will not be attacked by wax moths.
3. Take the cool winter days and evenings to assemble equipment for next year. Make sure that you put equipment together carefully with glue and nails sufficient for the stresses and strains of beekeeping. Frames especially need side nails in order to properly secure the top bar to the side bars.
4. Read, study and plan for next year's beekeeping season which will begin in January or February.

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October General Meeting Highlights, by Paula Sablosky, LCBA Secretary

“The Biology & Management of Colonies in Winter”

by Andony Melathopoulos, Assistant Professor, Pollinator Heath Extension, OSU

Andony was born and raised in Northern Alberta, Canada. His hometown is in the most northern tip of the Parkland Honey Belt. This vast swath of land which extends from Alberta, Canada to Minnesota has the greatest yields of honey on the planet. Red clover is credited with these spectacular yields. The average colony weight gain in Beaverlodge, Canada was 10 lbs per day (1971) and as much as 36.3 lbs per day (1984). In the 1970s, Canadian beekeepers were purchasing packaged bees from California. Prices were good and a family could live on the sale of honey from 500-800 hives. A crisis arrived with a tracheal mite problem and the Canadian border was closed to the purchasing of California packaged bees. Canadian beekeepers learned the “important and profitable work of developing bees and beekeeping systems based on our own unique resources and situations”, quote by Kirk Webster. In other words, they figured out how to overwinter their bees.

The basic biology of learning how to overwinter your hives is to first realize the survival needs of bees. There are some basic adaptations for our bees, *Apis Milleara*, that other bees don't have. The first one is that they need is an enclosed space. Something with walls to insulate them. The bees also have a behavior which allows them to deal with cold temperatures, clustering. By moving in close quarters, they maintain heat and conserve energy (honey). At the edge of the cluster, the bees are tightly packed, sharing heat between themselves and not allowing heat to escape. Inside the cluster, bees move more freely. Therefore, a colony that only has two to three frames of population will not survive the winter. A small hive may die, but remember, you will have built comb to salvage in the spring. It can be better to winter a small colony in a nuc box rather than in a full size hive. The bees will be more tightly packed and will be able to maintain the heat better.

The second adaptation is the brood nest. It is expensive to run. It has to be kept hot (90-95 F). To save resources the bees start to shut down after September as the temperatures start to fall and the size of the brood nest is reduced. The bees coming through winter are old bees. It's this capacity, having “fat” bees, that can keep the colony going through winter is a key adaptation. Once the winter solstice arrives, they will start to build up again.

Andony talked a little bit about mite control. If you go into winter with a substantial mite infestation, over 10%, your colony will probably die. Having good mite control going into winter is critical. Formic Acid, Apivar and Oxalic Acid are treatments for the winter.

Remember bees do not die from freezing, they die from starving. While it's warm outside you want to get your hives jammed packed with honey. Andony recommends 50 lbs. going into winter. This time of year your hives should be hard to lift. To get your brood nest re-energized in the spring you need pollen. Filberts, rosemary and willows bloom first thing in the new season. However, having pollen in the frame in the hive will help our bees immensely. Protein patties with 10% real pollen in the patties have been shown to be consumed more readily. Another adaption is the bees themselves. Bees that have good or mixed genetics may have a better winter survivability.

How to manage wintering colonies? The most important thing is to realize that when bees metabolize honey in the winter, they create water vapor. If the roof is cold, the vapor will condense and rain down on the bees. The bees will chill and die. You need to drill a 3/4” hole in the top of the box, just below the roof line to allow vapor to escape. Rigid insulation placed within the roof will keep the roof from chilling. The water vapor will then drip down the sides of the hive boxes and not on the bees. For nucs, Andony advocates maintaining them in Styrofoam hive boxes as he has had great success in doing this.

Lastly Andony's 5 Wintering Tips: See chart.

NOTE: Andony's presentation is posted on YouTube. Contact Nancy for link nancy.Ograin@gmail.com.

5 Wintering Tips For Beginners

1. Avoid wintering small colonies (<8 fr)
2. Feed colonies that are light (>8 fr)
3. Keep varroa low into fall (< 2%)
4. Spring pollen for population turnover
5. All colonies should have an upper entrance – moisture – and insulation – no other winter protection is needed in W. Oregon.



2022 Fall Conference Report by *Brian McGinley*



This year's OSBA conference was once again held in Florence, Oregon. Unlike the previous two years that I attended the conference, the 2022 conference was special to me because I participated all three days thanks in part to my travel trailer and a campground conveniently located several blocks away from the venue. Taking the time to experience the entire conference gave me a better appreciation for all the effort that OSBA puts into organizing and running a first-class conference. I definitely felt like my time and money were well spent. The last general comment I have has to do with the overall relaxed atmosphere at the conference as COVID didn't create a stifling atmosphere during the conference, I felt more comfortable interacting with others and being a part of the larger Oregon beekeeping community.

As far as the content of information delivered, I was impressed with the variety of speakers and topics presented. It was a good balance of bee research, commercial operator experiences and other sundry bee-related topics. The bee research talks were fun because they demonstrated where the universities are focusing their efforts and the positive energy expressed by our next generation of bee scholars. The commercial talks offered a brief glimpse into a bee world quite different than my hobby experiences. ohn Gibeau's two talks about his businesses were entertaining and eye-opening on what's going on in Canada. uss Heitkam's talks on mite management and queen rearing were down to earth glimpses of the trade-offs and challenges faced today by US commercial beekeepers. he other bee-related talks offered some variety to the list of topics presented.

If I had to choose my two favorites, they would be Tammy Horn's talk on pollinator habitat (because I'm a plant nerd) and Jeff Everett's talk on Bumblebees (because they are struggling to survive and I know so little about them). I encourage club members to consider attending next year's conference in-person or virtually. I think you'll find it worth your time.



2022 Fall Conference Report by *Fonta Molyneaux*



I enjoyed my third time attending the Oregon State Beekeeping conference in Florence, Oregon. It's such a wonderful opportunity to meet folks of all different scopes in beekeeping, share their love of bees and the world they create with them!

From beginners to commercial industry giants it's easy to see how important Oregon beekeeping is to the world and all the ways we factor into bee culture worldwide. One of the highlights of this year's conference was Dr. Tammy Horn Potter. She is the Kentucky state apiarist and author of several books about beekeeping. She is most famously known as author of the book "Beeconomy: Studying the Relationship of Women to Beekeeping Around the World". Her newest book, "Work I knew I must", is a historical perspective of Jane Cole, who was instrumental in the AI ROOT company, but whose work remained anonymous despite her major contributions.

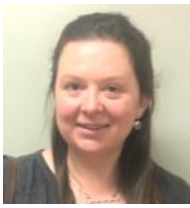
During her presentation at the conference, Dr. Horn Potter highlighted the way in which women were able to change their lives and shape bee culture all over the world both historically and presently. She spoke passionately about creating not only accessibility, but notoriety for women throughout all levels of beekeeping from academia down to small farmers who as primary caregivers are not afforded the same level of access to skills, funding, education, let alone honor in the industry.

It was quite compelling to hear these stories of women all over the world whose resourcefulness, determination and devotion to bees created something out of nothing. She spoke about women who held together the very oldest organizations through their organization, caretaking and writing. How relevant this issue still is that many women today still do so much free labor on behalf of others in beekeeping business and organizations. It was extremely moving when many women spoke up after the presentation in the Q&A period and shared their insights of navigating a male dominated industry as women in beekeeping. It's clear by the many women presenting over the course of the weekend that we've come a long way and it's clear from our shared experiences navigating this terrain we have a long way to go! It felt really special to witness this level of transparency in the larger beekeeping community about an issue that is near and dear to my heart. For more information about Dr. Tammy Horn Potter's work you will enjoy this episode of beekeeping today where she gives an overview of her work.

<https://www.beekeepingtodaypodcast.com/work-i-knew-i-must-with-tammy-horn-potter-s4-e2/>

Dr. Tammy Horn Potter





Fall Conference Report *by Mariah Kimpton*

I had the pleasure of attending the Oregon State Beekeeping Association Annual Fall Conference last month in Florence, thanks to winning a drawing for conference registration done at a recent LCBA meeting. I may not have attended otherwise, and I am so glad that I did!

There was a little something for everyone at the conference. Topics ranged widely, with some focused on commercial beekeepers, hobbyists, or both. I compared this to our monthly LCBA meetings, which so far in my not-quite-year of attending have done a wonderful job of covering the practical, seasonal needs of our bees (very convenient for a new beekeeper, I must say!). Conference topics delved deep into very specific aspects of beekeeping - digging into the science behind the bees, their health, and behavior, as well as covering the pollinator landscape beyond honeybees.

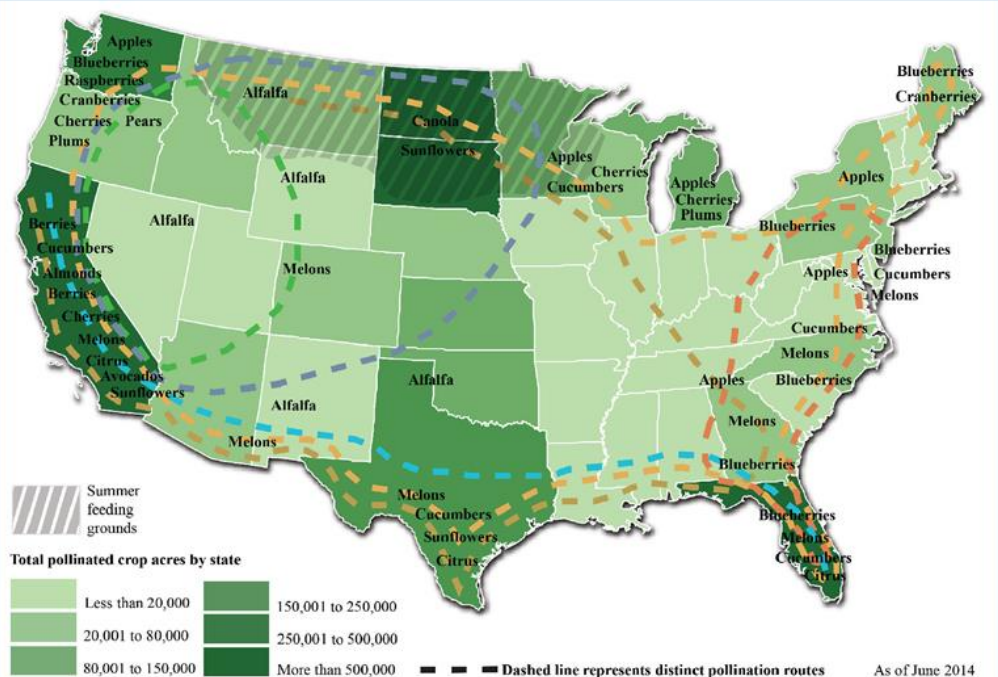
A few topics that particularly caught my interest included:

- The charming, fat, fuzzy Franklin Bumblebee, a recent addition to the Endangered Species List, which lives only in a handful of counties in Southern Oregon and Northern California. Last seen in 2006, I was inspired by the biologists who have not given up hope on finding and protecting the unique pollinator.
- Graduate students at Oregon State shared their research on testing the efficacy of Oxalic Acid vaporization and developing better models for pesticide hazard. What a treat to have bee research happening right here in our community!
- A [striking map](#) (below) of how far and by how many routes migratory, commercial pollinators move throughout the United States in a given year – an impressive (and somewhat frightening from a pest management standpoint) visual.
- As a beginning hobbyist beekeeper, I was somewhat surprised to find how much I enjoyed hearing about the commercial aspects of the industry – it's a topic I really didn't know much about before.

While the speakers at the conference were wonderful, what was even better was having the opportunity to meet beekeepers from across the state. The conference offered a wonderful opportunity to hear from a wide range of beekeepers, each with their own way of doing things and local challenges to overcome; truly a wealth of knowledge for beekeepers new and old alike.

The conference was especially convenient to attend, located only an hour and a half from Eugene, and with an online viewing option and speakers recorded for later view. I had to miss a couple of the Sunday afternoon speakers and am looking forward to catching up on anything I missed in the recordings. I highly encourage anyone considering attending next year to do so – it was a fun and informative weekend!

Pollinator movement and crops in the U.S.



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service; Sautzman (2011), with input from commercial beekeepers and apiculture experts, including Dr. Jeff Pettis and Dr. David Epstein, an entomologist and authority on pollinators with the USDA's Pest Management Policy. Crop production acres are from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012 Agricultural Census.



Oregon Master Beekeeping Journey Certificate Congratulations Paula Sablosky!

On August 20, 2022, I took and passed my final field exam completing the Journey level of the Oregon Master Beekeeping program. I would like to thank Morris Ostrofsky and Judy Scher for taking time from their lives and allowing me to take this exam.

This level of accomplishment represents three years of self-driven education and public service. The educational aspect was geared toward learning all there is to learn about honeybees, pollinators and the industry of beekeeping. The guided studies on honeybee management were wide ranging and covered topics such as laws and regulations regarding what types of hives that can kept in a community, waggle dance communication, what is honey, honey labeling laws, nutrition for honeybees and the devastating effects of varroa mites and all the nasty viruses the mites can vector.

Public service for me in the time of Covid was mostly written articles. I am currently mentoring high school students on how to maintain their school's beehives. I would also like to thank Rita Ostrosky-my number one cheerleader. Her suggestions as to where to find answers were greatly appreciated. She was also excellent at pointing out things that needed to get done. I look forward to the next level. I do know the basics but there is room for improvement.

I am also a graduate of Fonta Molyneaux's Sun Queen School Nectar Path. It was a six-week immersive course. The two experiences had the same basic rules about beekeeping, just some terms of language were different. For example, on the hive notes required by Master Beekeeping Program, phenology notes are required. In this time of climate change, it is important to know when your favorite plants are blooming. Fonta's Wheel of time presents the same information but in a different format. Both are very useful.

I am on the path of knowledge. Both schools of thought allow me to get better at beekeeping. These experiences taught me more terms to share with other beekeepers and the general public. Volunteering at the state fair showed me the enthusiasm our community has for honeybees. Quite a few people want beehives, but don't have the space. By being allowed to share and educate, it is quite an honor.



Have You Considered Mentoring? by Rita Ostrofsky, Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, Education Assistant



If you have been keeping bees long enough to remember the thrill of getting your first hive and have made enough mistakes to build and challenge your diagnostic skills, perhaps now is the time to help someone else share these experiences!

Becoming a mentor for the Oregon Master Beekeeper program is a great way to do this. Matching students and mentors at the Apprentice level makes our program unique.

Due to increased interest in beekeeping in Lane County, we want to expand our cadre of volunteer mentors. With sufficient beekeeping experience, **the requirement of Apprentice certification is waived.**

The benefits of mentoring are many; especially giving you the satisfaction of helping a new beekeeper get started "on the right foot." With

some additional work, you can earn your Apprentice certification making you eligible to enroll at the Journey level.

If interested, contact rita.ostrofsky@oregonstate.edu to request an application. Once approved, you will be given access to the online Mentor Resource Center where you will find mentor materials as well as many educational resources. We will work to match you with a student starting with the next Apprentice class in January.

Questions to ask yourself as you consider mentoring:

- *Do you have the time to work with a student?*
- *Will you answer emails in a timely manner?*
- *Can you be objective and provide pros/cons to management even if you personally disagree with some?*
- *Can you hold back and let the student do the work?*

Qualifications

- ✓ OMB Apprentice certification Waived
- ✓ Completion of online Mentor Training Course
- ✓ 3 or more years current beekeeping experience
- ✓ Ability to provide student(s) with program content in an unbiased manner
- ✓ Willingness to research questions/inquiries when answer is not known
- ✓ Willingness to meet with your student(s) at least four times during the beekeeping year to sign their Field Experience Worksheets

Willingness to be proactive communicating with students and program administration

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Honey Bee Nutrition by Dewey M. Caron

When Dr. Sagili presents his annual comments to LCBA members at their January meeting, he always includes the OSU research on “Honey Bee Nutrition”. Inadequate nutrition is recognized as one of the major stressors of honey bees negatively impacting colony health. Dr. Sagili along with Dr. Priyadarshini Chakrabarti (who moved from OSU to become Assistant Professor at Mississippi State University) and Dr Jennifer Tsuruda, extension bee specialist at University of Tennessee, recently published a review article on Honey Bee Nutrition: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34689917/> (click on full text link to download PDF).

The article emphasizes that honey bee nutrition is complex and unique and that bees are not similar to other livestock. Honey bees, as we know, receive their protein and their carbohydrate from flower pollen and nectar and what we might feed. Their ability to collect their food depends upon both seasonally, variable external weather conditions and internal dynamics of the colony.

The article, intended as a primer for veterinarians, discusses five aspects of bee nutrition:

- (1) foraging behavior of honey bees, (2) nutritional needs of bees, (3) nutritional supplements used by beekeepers, (4) probiotics and (5) supplemental forage and efforts integrating floral diversity into cropping systems.

The extensive literature review of over 100 citations will help fill in the gaps and help you to keep up-to-date on honey bee nutrition. Bee nutrition is a “hot” topic very active area of current bee research.

No apiary location is “perfect” for bees, although city and suburban sites offer a greater smorgasbord for colonies compared to agricultural cropping sites. Fall forage is different from spring forage, which helps the colony to expand or contract as appropriate. Beekeepers can provide supplemental nutrition (protein and sugars) to their colonies to stimulate their spring growth to enable them to rear the “fat” fall bees and to help colonies stay healthier during foraging dearth’s. However, an anomaly is that a number of the nutritional supplements that beekeepers routinely feed to bees, are modified from cattle supplements.

The nutritional supplements available to beekeepers are not adequate in maintaining long-term brood rearing. Several studies have shown they do not perform as well as bees feed real pollen (a study I did in late 70’s illustrating usefulness of pollen patties is cited in the review). Our sign from the bees is larval cells without a generous pool of worker jelly, a difficult diagnosis at best. The commercial beekeepers in the Pacific Northwest feed on average four lbs. of protein supplement in the spring and about four to eight lbs. in fall. (OSU Extension article 745 (2020) Topitzhofer, Breece and Wynn)

Regarding probiotics, the review illustrates the paucity of peer-reviewed studies on their benefits. We do know the worker bee gut contains a distinctive community of about eight dominant bacterial species which influence nutrition by assisting in digestion and which are assumed to play a role in pathogen defense. When and how much additional probiotics we might incorporate into their diet to improve bee health is largely unknown.

The summary article includes a section on ‘Supplemental Forage’ and ‘Integrating Floral Diversity’ into ‘Cropping Systems’. Project Apis m “Seeds for Bees” and the Xerces Society list of plants highly attractive to pollinators in various growing regions are cited as leading the way, but as we have heard Ramesh say it is not merely attraction. It is also the ability of flowering plants to provide the bees with what it actually needs for a nutritionally adequate diet. Toward this end Ramesh and Priya are collecting pollens of 100+ common attractive to bees to determine their value. The omics approach as described by Priya, Hannah and Ramesh et. al 2019 - <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31538263/>

This review is a great guidepost for where we are and what needs to be determined. Look it over to get caught up to date. It will help you be a better informed beekeeper.

Another recent resource is the newly revised 8th edition of “Tools for Varroa Management”. It was extensively reviewed over the summer by myself and a committee from the honey Bee Health Coalition. It is a free download from the Honey bee Health Coalition at <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/>

I have also revised our foulbrood leaflet. The document describes key field and lab diagnostics for American and European Foulbrood. Community resources are available to beekeepers along with the current regulations regarding antibiotic use. It represents a ‘Onehealth’ (integrated) view of treating bee diseases.

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.

"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>



Advertise Here

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.

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,
judyscher@gmail.com

Elmira - Ken Ograin 541-935-7065,
woodrt@pacinfo.com

Cottage Grove - Francis Rothauge 541-520-8391

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. 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.

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

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

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Links



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



Bee Informed
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<https://beeinformed.org/>

Oregon
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[https://
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Friday in the Apiary

[https://extension.oregonstate.edu/
mb/friday-apiary](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mb/friday-apiary)



<https://orsba.org/>



[Honey Bee Lab](#)

[Pollinator Health](#)

[Oregon Bee Project](#)

[PolliNation Podcast](#)

[Bee Diagnostics](#)



**Honey Bee Health
Coalition**

**Tools for Varroa Management
& Supporting Videos**

<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

Best Management Practices for Bee Health

[https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/
hive-health-best-management-practices/](https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/hive-health-best-management-practices/)

Varroa Management Decision Tool

<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroatool/>



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



Honey Bee Health

Resources, Research and Beekeeping
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<https://bee-health.extension.org/>

Beltsville Bee Lab

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The go to for American foulbrood.

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