



November 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

Website: www.lcbaor.org

***New Email:** lcbaor@outlook.com

President: Fonta Molyneaux 541-592-9332

Vice President: Paula Sablosky 541-206-7173

Treasurer: Polly Habliston 541-461-0339

Secretary: Matt Stouder 541-619-5582

Board Members: * Pam Leavitt 541-344-4228

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

Dennis Groff 541-225-8876

Past President: Brian McGinley 541-521-7523



It's hard to believe that this is my final presidential message for 2023. It's been one year since I became president of the club and began my monthly messages. I want to end this year's message with a deep bow of gratitude to the entire membership, especially this incredibly devoted board of

directors that have been the heartbeat of this organization. A club is truly like a cluster of bees working it all out. I'm so grateful for the precious time, passion and service folks give this superorganism we call LCBA. Thank you!

Instead of cake and flowers we honor ourselves with HONEY!

Let's Celebrate the off season together as we sample the fruits of our labor and bring on the honey. Our November meeting centers around our brief annual elections and OUR annual honey tasting, which is my favorite meeting of the year.

PLEASE bring a honey sample to share. If you didn't produce honey this year don't worry. We still want you to delight in the process of sampling the very diverse flavors possible in our region. I think the Willamette Valley produces some of the most incredible honey on the planet and evidently so did the Oregon State Beekeepers Association!

I won first place this year in both light and dark honey competitions! An honor only made sweeter by the fact that the amber category was won by board member and friend Ariel Schulze as her entry also took BEST in SHOW! LCBA got all the blue ribbons! The real honor for me was even having my honey judged by renowned Honey Sommelier, Marje Ehry, who maintained the Honey Show. She has also judged honey tasting at the Oregon State Fair and other competitions for close to 60 years. Her daughter Bonnie King now continues the legacy and it was truly a joy to know they loved our honey.

See if your palate is as cultured as theirs and join us for this very special last meeting of the season.

**Happy
Holidays!**

GENERAL MEETING

November 21, 2023

In-Person Meeting

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

Social 7:00pm-7:30pm

No Early Session

Doors open at 6:45pm

General Meeting

7:30 pm

Elections

&

"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 Events & Announcements

Nov 28 – At Home Beekeeping Series

Topic: Exploring the Effects of Yellow Jessamine on Honey Bee Health, Mike Goblirsch, USDA

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

Join via Zoom at:

Zoom: <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838>

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

LCBA 2024 Bee School - LCBA will be offering beginning beekeeping classes early next year. The classes will cover what a new beekeeper needs to know to be successful to begin their journey. Information will be available in our 2024 January newsletter.

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.

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.

No December Meeting



2024 January Meeting

Dr. Ramesh Sagili, OSU Honey Bee Lab, will be speaking to us at our January meeting next year. There will be no early meeting. Hope to see you in January!

Do you know someone who wants to get into beekeeping? A free video tutorial is available from the MSU Extension Service.



University of Michigan
MSU Extension Pollinators & Pollination

Is Beekeeping Right for Me?

Have you ever wondered if beekeeping is right for you? This online course provides an introduction to honey bees, covers the time required, physical demands, and financial resources of beekeeping, and suggests ways to help all pollinators.

Cost: Free

Learn more: [Is Beekeeping Right for Me? - Pollinators & Pollination \(msu.edu\)](https://www.msu.edu/pollinators)

Pollinator License Plate Now Available at the DMV



You can order online or in person at the DMV. The license plate was brought about by Andony Melathopoulos and Ramesh Sagili 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.

Purchase a Pollinator Paradise plate and help support the bees of Oregon!

License Plate Raffle

Member, Becca Fain, sold raffle tickets at our last two meetings and the drawing took place at the OSBA Fall Conference. The winner of plate BZ00015 was Jacob Helton from the Central Coast Beekeepers club. At the conference Rex McIntire from the Portland Urban Beekeepers was the successful bidder of plate BZ000010.

Thanks to all our members who purchased tickets to help support the bee lab!

Welcome New Members

Nicolette Lew
Glenn Zollner
Terry Mendez

Veneta
Pleasant Hill
Creswell

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 these 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.

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.



"Beach sand" texture



Hungry bees consuming pure sugar patties.

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.

Fondant Recipe posted on our website on "Recipe" tab.

www.lcbaor.org/recipes



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.

Busy Bee

Mushroom Festival: Lane County Beekeepers Association had an information booth at the Mushroom Festival last month at Mt Pisgah Arboretum. Attendance was overwhelming, in fact, tickets were sold out. Besides identifying all the types of fungi, the attendees were able to be entertained by bands, enjoy a variety of foods as well as arts and crafts. Our booth was a frequent stop by those walking through the non-profit section. A major attraction was our "Bees of Oregon" poster from the Oregon Bee Project. Our volunteer beekeepers kept busy by answering questions and hopefully enlightening people on the importance of bees. However, the population that comes to this festival are generally well educated on the need for pollinators.

Pam Leavitt



Thank you LCBA Volunteers!

Left to right: Joe Dillert, Polly Habliston, Pam Leavitt & Paula Sablosky



This little girl was mesmerized by bee pictures. She looked at the picture with such an intense stare, as if she was really studying and learning!



LCBA Award

Lane County Beekeepers Association just received their award certificate this month for being the 2nd place winner in the People's Choice Category at the Lane County Fair back in July. The booth in the Wheeler Pavilion was voted on by the fair attendees and we won a \$75 cash prize donated Lane Pomona Grange. A huge thank you goes to Katharine Hunt, Paula Sablosky, Nancy Ograin, Dennis Groff, Richard Smith and Pam and Les Leavitt who were responsible for setting up, dismantling, decorating and security hosts.

It takes a group of dedicated volunteers to make our club successful and we appreciate their hard work.



OSBA Fall Conference Report by Fonta Molyneaux

I had a great time at this year's Annual Oregon State Beekeepers Fall Conference in Bend, Oregon. I was really excited to get to hear the presentation by Dr. Diana Cox Foster, an entomologist with the USDA -ARS Pollinating Insect Unit. Her groundbreaking study was recently published definitively proving that honeybees do not impact Native bee colonies. Here is a link to the same talk she did at this year's American Bee Federation conference.

https://youtu.be/Y6e5gHA7D_s?si=lwtY-jtXMBQsif4J

This is a huge issue as honeybees are often mistaken for an invasive species rather than a non native naturalized species. Her research was absolutely compelling as was the breadth of her study. I found her presentation to be a major highlight of the entire weekend!

It was great to see the all star cast of characters from OSU sharing the latest and greatest in bee research! They gratefully accepted our donations to the OSU bee lab and to the Oregon Bee Project. A total of \$3000 our membership donated to bee research, not including, over \$1,000 we raised through our silent and oral auction items! Our contribution felt significant and I'm so proud of us!

I was able to meet on multiple occasions throughout the weekend, with the presidential committee made up of all the club presidents throughout Oregon! It was exciting to hear about all the activities clubs do and future ideas being organized! We made so many new friends and solidified connections between clubs.

It really was a beautiful conference and it goes without saying one of our very own members, Becca Fain had everything to do with it! Becca was a huge structure of support for Vice-President, Jeremy Mitchell, who directed this year's conference. It was really inspiring to see all they did to create such a beautiful and valuable experience for everybody including our precious bees who directly benefit from the works we do at the local and state level!

Hope you join us next year!!



Fonta Molyneaux

1st Place Light Honey
1st Place Dark Honey



Ariel Schulze

1st Place Light Amber Honey
2nd Place Single Source Honey
Ariel also won "Best in Show"
for her amber honey!



Robin Martins

1st Place Photography
3rd Dark Honey



Fonta presenting Dr. Ramesh Sagili
LCBA's donation for the bee lab.

LCBA Donations

LCBA honey sales and used equipment sales allowed us to donate to the following the following:

\$2000 OSU Bee Lab Research
\$1000 Oregon Bee Project
\$400 Project Apis.

We would have not been able to do this without the generous donations of honey from our members!

Thank You Members!



OSBA Donations

Each year the Oregon State Beekeepers Association raises funds for bee research at their fall conference auction. This year they donated \$20,000 to the bee lab from last years auction plus an additional \$5000 of matching affiliate club donations.

The auction this year was very successful and the funds raised will be donated at next year's auction



Speedy-Vap donated by Brian Jackson.

Thank you LCBA Members!

For all your great donations to the OSBA conference auction! Other items donated were deep and western frames, 6 pk Honey Kolsch beer and a Speedy-Vap (oxalic acid vaporizer). Our nuc was auctioned off in the oral auction for \$850!



George Hanson's donated caustic painting went for \$4500!



Jason Rowan was the successful bidder of this amazing birdhouse.

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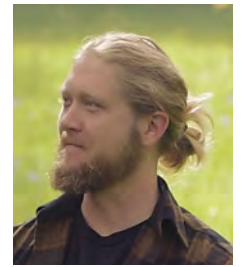


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October General Meeting Highlights, *by Matt Stouder, LCBA Secretary* **“The Bees of the Willamette Valley”, August Jackson**



August Jackson

August Jackson, Interpretation Coordinator with Mt. Pisgah Arboretum and Instructor for the Oregon Bee Atlas, provided a great presentation on ‘Bees of the Willamette Valley’. Presently, it is estimated that there are between 200-300 species of bees in the Willamette Valley. While we don’t know exactly how many species are in the valley, they are associated with prairie and oak habitats or with wetlands.

Bees in Oregon have responded positively to fires, in part because the flowering species they depend on respond positively. This is true even if the fires are of higher severity. Bees are generally absent from thick or closed forests. Bees are a subset of wasps, and like other wasps, they mass provision their young with what is needed to survive. The bee species we have today evolved from hunting wasps that hunted thrips.

Bee larval development requires a protein source in the form of pollen. Some bee species are generalists and collect pollen from many different plants, while others are specialists and collect pollen from only a handful of plants.

Most bee species are solitary. Approximately 70% nest in the ground and 30% nest in cavities. Once adult bees leave the nest, they generally only live for a few weeks. Males are particularly short-lived.

Most species only produce one generation per year.

There are approximately 14 species of bumble bees (Genus *Bombus*) in the Willamette Valley. Bumblebees are eusocial, and form colonies from dozens to hundreds. They are generally active from March-September and their hives never last longer than one year. Bumble bee queens will hibernate and overwinter and have to establish a new colony the following year. Bumble bees are the only bees native to Oregon that have corbicula like honeybees. The Nevada Bumblebee is the largest bee species in the state (about thumb size). The Black-Tailed bumblebee can be found nesting above ground in bird houses. There is only one record of the Red-Belted bumblebee ever found in the Willamette Valley, which occurred at Alton-Baker Park.



Red-Belted Bumblebee

There are two species of Carpenter bees (Genus *Xylocopa*) that live in the Willamette Valley. These bees are solitary stem-nesters and are active from February-October.

Several species of Long-horn bees (*Melissodes*) also live in the valley. These bees are solitary ground-nesters with long antennae that go all the way back to end of their abdomen. Long-horn bees are active from March-June and especially like sunflowers. These bees are about three-quarters the size of honeybee.

Mining bees (Genus *Andrena*) are present in the valley in large numbers (30+ species). Mining bees are solitary ground nesters (often communal) and are active from February-July. Many species are floral specialists.



Mining Bee

Mason bees (Genus *Osmia*) are also present in large numbers (20 or so species). These bees are solitary cavity-nesters and are active from February-July. Some species are floral specialists. Mason bees are very good pollinators and come out when temperatures reach 55 degrees in the spring. They use mud to build their nests and usually gather mud at the same spot. However, many of them will chew up plant material to make their nests if mud isn’t available.

Two species of Small Resin bees (Genus *Heriades*) can be found in the valley. They are solitary cavity-nesters and use plant resins to seal their nest cells. Small Resin bees are active from May-July.

Carder and Resin bees (Genus *Anthidium* and *Dianthidium*) were introduced to Eugene in 2008 from Europe. There are a couple of native species present in the Valley. The non-native *Anthidium manicatum* is abundant and is a solitary cavity-nesters.

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The native Anthidium and Dianthidium are uncommon in the valley. They are active from June- September.

About a dozen Leafcutter bees (Genus Megachile) are native to the Willamette Valley. These solitary cavity-nesters seal their nests cells with cut plant material and are active from June-September.



Leafcutter Bee

A small number of Plaster bees (Genus Colletes) can be found in the valley. These solitary ground-nesters are frequently found in large aggregations. They are active from May-September. The females secrete true polyester from their abdomen, which they use to coat their nest cells to make them waterproof.

If you are interested in planting plants for native bees to forage on in the Willamette Valley, favorites include Goldenrod, Douglas Aster, Tall Camas, Oceanspray, Tall Oregon Grape and Nootka Rose. Additionally, the link below provides information to a guide about bees in the Willamette Valley written by August.

www.ecolingual.com

The Bees of the Willamette Valley; A comprehensive guide to Genera by August Jackson



October Early Session: “Bee Stings and Allergies”, Dr. Jason Friesen

Jason Friesen, MD with Oregon Allergy Associates, led a very engaging early talk on bee stings and allergies. Presently, the most common cause of allergy related fatalities in the US is from bee venom at roughly 40 deaths per year. The prevalence of venom allergy in the general population is approximately 3% in adults and 0.4% in children.



Dr. Friesen

Humans can be allergic to some or all insect venoms, including Vespidae venom (yellow jackets, wasps, hornets), Apidae venom (bumblebee, honeybee), or Formicidae venom (fire ants).

Yellow jackets are very aggressive and build nests in the ground. Because they are more aggressive it means that folks tend to get stung more by yellow jackets than other insects. Contrary to popular belief, yellow jackets can leave their stinger behind, but it is rare.

Hornets, such as bald faced and yellow faced hornets aggressively defend their nest, which can be large are generally found in trees. Hornet nests are covered which means you can't see the cells inside the nest. This contrasts with paper wasps, which build small thin waisted nests under eaves on your house and which you can see the cells.

As many people know, honeybees are generally not aggressive and do have a barbed stinger. A bumblebee is not very aggressive and is a rare cause for allergy.

When a person gets stung, there are several types of reactions which may occur. They can generally be categorized as “Usual”, “Large Local”, “Anaphylactic” and “Toxic”. A usual reaction will present with swelling, erythema, and pain lasting from minutes to a few hours. The best therapy for a usual reaction is ice.

A large local reaction may cause more extensive erythema and swelling and can continue to enlarge for 1-2 days and then resolve over a few more days. This type of reaction will still be “connected” to the sting site (i.e., the victim was stung in the hand and the whole arm swells). They can frequently reoccur, and there is a small risk for anaphylaxis to occur with future stings (<10%).

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An anaphylactic reaction is quite serious. After receiving a sting, the victim may present with hives, swelling, asthma-like symptoms, throat swelling, low blood pressure, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. Swelling comes on in minutes or within an hour. It is important to note that anxiety can mimic most of the symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction.

A toxic reaction occurs when a victim receives a large amount of venom from multiple stings. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, headache, fainting, etc. There is an approximately 50% fatality rate for victims that receive 1500 stings.

It is important to note that if you have an allergic reaction, you are much more likely to have an allergic reaction later. Patients who have had a previous allergic reaction have been shown to have a 30% to 60% chance of having an anaphylactic reaction with subsequent stings and a cumulative risk of 60% moving forward.

If you think you have an allergy and you visit an allergist, you can expect the allergist to quiz you about your history. The allergist may choose to do skin testing, which can be done for five species of hymenopter; they may do prick testing or intradermal testing. The current recommendation is to do both skin and blood testing.

Treatment for allergic reaction consists of using an Epi-Pen or antihistamines. It is important to know when to use each of these types of medications as well as their expiration dates. You should use antihistamines (i.e., generic Zyrtec) if your symptoms do not go “beyond the skin.” If your symptoms do go “beyond the skin” such as light-headedness, trouble breathing, etc. it would be appropriate to use an Epi-Pen.

Venom immunotherapy (allergy shots) are another option. This takes time and effort but can reduce your risk level back to that of the normal population (~3%). Immunotherapy works by introducing venom in small amounts into your body and the quantity is slowly increase over time. This type of treatment is generally paid for by insurance.

Contract Nancy for YouTube link to Dr. Friesen’s presentation, nancy.ograin@gmail.com.



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November Elections - Slate of Officers

The following is the 2024 Slate of Officers 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) Brian Jackson
 Dennis Groff
 Denny Pederson
 Norm Jarvis
 Pam Leavitt

Learn all about the candidates that will be serving you next year. Please read their statements and be prepared to vote.



Candidate for Secretary Matt Stouder

I have been a member of LCBA since 2017 and presently serve as Secretary. I have enjoyed my time as a club member immensely and find satisfaction in helping others learn about beekeeping. LCBA was instrumental in helping me become a successful beekeeper and provided me with knowledge, skills and abilities that would otherwise have taken numerous years to accumulate.

Presently, I participate in the OSU master beekeeper program and am working towards my Master level certification. I also help teach Bee School for LCBA, am active with honeybee research through Oregon State, and serve as a mentor in the master beekeeping program. I have approximately 16 hives at my home apiary and am hoping to downsize a little this year – I love bees but don't want my hobby to turn into a full time job! I would like to continue to serve as Secretary 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 President Fonta Molyneaux

Being a member of the LCBA has been such a highlight of my beekeeping adventure! I have learned so much from this community and I have also loved contributing to the collective wisdom our club holds.

In 2023 I learned so much from my role as president. I am so grateful for the board and our membership for your support and contributions to our club life! We did some great things and I'm really proud of all we shared! Beyond my role and duties here at our club I attended monthly meetings with the President's Council for the Oregon State Beekeepers Association representing LCBA.

I'm super excited about the resources that will flow in our direction in 2024 as a result of that work! We are now the largest bee club in Oregon! I hope to continue to represent the club both locally and regionally as we have such 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!

I want to continue to create a space where all beekeepers regardless of skill, feel nourished by the community and resource sharing our club creates. I bring to the presidency a robust beekeeping practice, educational offerings, community stewardship and an effervescent passion for bees!



Candidate for Vice-President Paula Sablosky

I am affirming my commitment to the Beekeeping Community by asking to serve a second term as Vice President of LCBA.

During this past year, I have experienced some of the continuous work that my fellow volunteers do for the beekeepers in Lane County. When I have interacted with the public at the Oregon State Fair or Mushroom Festival, I am yet again amazed by how much the audience expresses their interest and enthusiasm for our pollinators.

Oregon has great resources for beekeeping-I want to help get that word out that we at LCBA are one of the accessible resources.



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 fifteen 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 Brian Jackson

My passion for beekeeping began many years ago when I first constructed my own top bar hive as a hobby. Little did I know that this pastime would evolve into a flourishing business, resulting in the establishment of Honey Paddle Farm alongside my wife, Amber Jackson.

Situated along the scenic McKenzie River, our farm not only cultivates vibrant cut flowers, but also nurtures essential cover crops specifically intended to sustain bees.

I enjoy engaging in lively conversations about bees with fellow enthusiasts, as they share their knowledge and experiences. During one of these conversations, the lack of affordable options for mite vaporizers was a topic, so I set out to develop a band heater called Speedy-Vap.

I have successfully completed the OSU Extension Master Beekeeper Apprenticeship program in 2020. My commitment to the beekeeping community shines through my active involvement as an LCBA board member for the past two years.



Candidate for Board Ariel Schulze

My name is Ariel Schulze. I began beekeeping in 2021 and partner Hamm and I are now going into our third beekeeping winter.

We turned this hobby into a business, Honeystung, when we realized that we had more bees and honey than we knew what to do with. During the last year our apiary grew to 35 hives, I began selling our honey at local Farmer's Markets, and we began offering colony removals and performing cutouts.

I attribute our success so far to the information provided by experts, such as the speakers at LCBA, and to the greater beekeeping community. Area specific information, like that provided by the LCBA, has been an invaluable resource.

It has been a privilege to serve on the board of the Lane County Beekeeper's Association for the last year. I have been able to work toward my goals of community outreach by chairing our Events Committee and I feel that I am still just getting started. I would be honored to continue to build on this work in 2024 and would like to continue serving on the LCBA Board.



Candidate for Board Dennis Groff

Hello! My name is Dennis and I am once again running for a seat on the board for LCBA.

As a current board member, I'm feeling positive about the direction our club is heading and I'm committed to do what I can to further the goals of LCBA and its membership.

As a keeper of several different types of hives, I am open to entertaining all discussions regarding this diverse hobby. There are many ways to enjoy beekeeping and no one has a monopoly on how to do it. Hope to hear from you in the coming year.



Candidate for Board
Norm Jarvis

Bees and beekeeping have always fascinated me. The extremely close relationship between these wild and beautiful animals and the essential agricultural role

they play in our human lives is simply amazing.

I moved to Oregon about five years ago and decided almost immediately that I wanted to keep bees on my little hobby farm. Like many people, I was afraid of bees, and the pain they might inflict, but through my beekeeping education and the wonderful personal resources of the Lane County Beekeepers Association, I now understand so much more, and no longer fear them. I now have great affection for my bees, and I love to sit and watch them at work.

I have been a member of LCBA for four years and consider it an essential part of my beekeeping journey. The educational talks and classes, the printed and online materials, and especially the vast store of personal knowledge and experience of the members are all critical to my successful beekeeping. But more than that, the club also serves the very important role of education and outreach to the public. Even if other people don't have the desire or means to keep bees themselves, knowing about the importance of bees, and in fact all of our pollinators, is so extremely important. Even more so in our changing environment!

As a board member I seek to promote the goals of our club, both internally to our members, and externally to the public. I want to continue the club's wonderful legacy of sharing knowledge and especially our understanding and appreciation for these beautiful creatures. I will work to meet the needs of our diverse membership and help to expand our relationships with the public as well as university and other beekeeping organizations.



Candidate for Board
Denny Pederson

My name is Denny Pedersen and I have been beekeeping since 2013. I am seeking a position on the Board of Directors of LCBA.

I am a Journey student in the Oregon Master Beekeeper's program. In addition to being a member, I am also a member of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association and Linn Benton Beekeeping Association.

My experience on non-profit boards is extensive; I have been secretary, president, VP, director, paid and unpaid. My varied and unique experiences in life (BA in Marketing, Retired businessman, gold prospector, Odd Fellows (Fraternal Lodge) member, Master Gardener, Beekeeper, a Zydeco dancer, and prior member of Toastmasters) makes me a perfect candidate as a director.

I configure my hives a little differently than most beekeepers; I use follower boards in every box, a screened bottom with a slide-out monitoring board, all boxes are mediums, a modified top feeder, a 1-1/8 inch inner cover with NO holes, except with a screened ventilation slot on the edge. Everything else is pretty much the same as everyone else. I am thinking of using deeps in the future, in a different way, of course.

As a board member, I intend to bring my knowledge, skills, new ideas, and good humor to the club. I look forward to contributing new ideas for a better club and to help the members to be better beekeepers. I will not disappoint.

Thank you for considering me as a member of your Board of Directors.



Candidate for Board
Pam Leavitt

I am currently a member of the Board of Directors and would like to continue in this role in 2024. I joined LCBA in 2001 and held various elected positions on the board, including president. In the last several years as coordinator of our annual bee school it has been a pleasure to plan, organize and work with the team of instructors who share the basics of beginning beekeeping with our attendees.

The willingness of our membership to assist others is one of the attributes that makes LCBA a special organization and I look forward to continuing as a member of the leadership team.

Thank you for your consideration to vote for me as a member of the board.



Comprehensive Look at Pollination

by Dewey M. Caron

In the U.S. over 50% of income for large-scale beekeepers comes from colony rental for pollination. Worldwide it is less but growing, reflected in the expansion in beekeeping in Asia and South America. By one estimate, 75% of crops are dependent on animal pollination, at least to some degree.

Graduate student, Joseph Millard, in his PhD study at the University College London, Centre for Biodiversity & Environment Research, looked at pollination dependent crops to determine which were most at threat for the next couple of decades. We know here in the U.S., but also elsewhere in the world, there have been substantial declines in both the abundance and richness of insect pollinators.

The study published in *Science Advances* <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adh0756> suggested that tropical crops such as coffee, cocoa, watermelon and mango may be at the highest risk due to the loss of insect pollinators. The analysis compiled data from 1,507 crop growing sites around the world, involving 3,080 insect pollinator species. Losses, due in part to the combined pressures of climate change and agricultural activities, have already led to substantial declines in both the abundance and richness of insect pollinators for these tropical cropping systems. This trend will accelerate unless measures are taken to reverse this trend.

Summarizing this impact Dr. Millard states ““Our research indicates that the tropics are likely most at risk when it comes to crop production from pollinator losses, primarily due to the interaction of climate change and land use. While localized, risks are highest in regions like sub-Saharan Africa, northern South America, and south-east Asia.... the implications of this extend globally via the trade in such pollination dependent crops.”

U.S. beekeepers recognize and greatly benefit from the critically important ecological service honey bees and other pollinators play in pollination of our crops and the natural environment. Efforts to increase numbers of bee colonies and at the same time mitigate climate change could significantly reduce the risk to future crop production. This study serves as a stark reminder of the interconnectedness of ecosystems worldwide and the critical role played by pollinators in sustainable agriculture and food security.

Wrapping up our beekeeping year:

So this concludes our 2023 bee season. Overwintering losses of commercial beekeepers were extensive, but less so for LCBA and other Oregon backyarders. It was a strange year that started with early pollen availability, but then colony development was delayed with our cooler, rainy March into May weather. There was also less swarming, but surplus honey harvests were outstanding for many individuals. Bees for the most part were looking good in the fall, but mite numbers were again high for some.

I hope in your look back you can conclude it was generally a good year for beekeeping. Now after a holiday break I recommend you spend some time to develop a proactive mite control plan for the coming season. We do not have a “magic bullet.” Mite management has to go hand-in-hand with bee management. We need to keep mite numbers low in April and May as it is too difficult to lower high mite numbers come August and September. Since mite numbers develop more quickly in drone brood, management of drones and use of formic/oxalic acid or thymol essential oil to keep mite numbers reduced before supering is the best management to flatten the mite growth curve. If we help our bees in lowering mite development, our hygienic bees can more effectively reduce mites reproducing in capped cells. Fewer mites means less opportunity for destructive viruses to reach epidemic proportions with subsequent colony collapse.

Best of the luck this winter. I look forward, as I hope you do, for a good 2024.

Happy Holidays!

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@outlook.com

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



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HONEY BEE RESEARCH & EXTENSION LABORATORY

Two Bees in a Podcast

Two Bees in a Podcast is hosted by members of University of Florida's Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory.

Learn about honey bees, beekeepers, researchers, and specialists from around the world in educational, fun, yet practical episodes!

Hosted by: Dr. Jamie Ellis, Professor of Entomology, Department of Entomology & Nematology, University of Florida

[Podcast - Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS \(ufl.edu\)](http://Podcast - Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS (ufl.edu))



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Classified Ads

Bee-related classified ads cost \$5.00/month for non-members and are free to members. Classified ads run for 4 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,

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Deep (9-5/8) hive bodies with assembled frames, no wire or wax.

Semi-deep (7-5/8), same.

Westerns (6-5/8), same.

Ready for winter work to get ready for spring.

Some foundation available still in the box.

Most boxes with good paint.

Contact Shepard: 541-231-3225

For Sale - Speedy-Vap Oxalic Acid Vaporizer

Get rid of mites quickly in your bee yard by using a Speedy-Vap band heater! It only takes 3 minutes to heat up and 30 seconds to treat each colony. The case is made of a strong plastic material, and it uses 120 AC. The unit is made with all stainless steel parts and comes with 2 caps and a dosing spoon.

Price is \$205

Questions? Contact Brian at:

[Speedy-Vap Varroa Mite Vaporizer on Facebook](#)

or brian@abcjackson.us 541-513-3716

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

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 \(gofundme.com\)](#)

Honey Donations

If you have any extra honey this year after extracting and would like to share with LCBA please contact Katharine Hunt. Proceeds benefit the Honey Bee Research at OSU and other educational programs.

Katharine keehunt@gmail.com



NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

The LCBA newsletter is published eleven times a year by the Lane County Beekeepers Association, 130 Hansen Lane, Eugene, OR 97404. Sample copies may be requested from the editor. Copyright resides with individual contributors. If you would like to reprint anything you see here, please contact the editor. Permission is normally granted freely for non-profit use. For advertisements, please contact the editor or the association treasurer by the first of the month.

Editor: Nancy Ograin 541-935-7065 nancy.ograin@gmail.com

2024 LCBA New/Renewal Memberships

\$25 per year per calendar year (Jan to Dec) 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.

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