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# THE BEE LINE

The Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association

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Volume 23, Number 10

November/December 1998

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## The “Northwest Corner” Beekeepers’ Conference – Nov. 12-14, 1998 in Seaside, Oregon

The Northwest Corner Beekeepers Conference should be a “must attend” event for hobbyists, sideliners and commercial beekeepers alike from all parts of the Great Northwest, including British Columbia, Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

Speakers include Dr. Eric Mussen from the University of California at Davis, our own Dr. Michael Burgett and Dr. Lynn Royce from Oregon State University, Dr. William Wilson from the Weslaco Bee Lab in Texas, Mr. Gene Brandi from the National Honey Board, and Dr. Steve Shephard from Washington State University.

**A registration form is enclosed. Avoid long lines at the registration table! Reserve your place now by completing the form and sending it to Bart Snyder right away. Also, make your room reservations as soon as possible.** The Best Western Oceanview Resort can be reached at 1-800-234-8439. *Editor’s note: For room information at other motels, call the Seaside Chamber of Commerce at 800-452-6740 (inside Oregon only). Another contact is a free service called Overnight Success at 800-365-6343 that lists over 2,000 lodgings. Postal regulations prohibit non-profit groups from listing or recommending specific motels or rates.*

Topics and various speakers include “**How About Those Queens**” by Dr. Eric Mussen, “**Amitraz Study Report**” by Dr. Lynn Royce, “**Zoecon Report on Other than Apistan Treatments**” (speaker to be announced), “**Essential Oil Studies**”, by Dr. Lynn Royce, “**Apistan Resistance by Varroa Mites-Latest Information**” by Dr. William Wilson, “**Earning A Guinness World Record Entry for the Largest Bee Beard**” by Dr. Eric Mussen, “**Parasitic Mite Control**” by Dr. Steve Shephard, “**Small Hive Disease**” by Dr. William Wilson, “**Madras Pollination Study**” by Dr. Michael Burgett, a “**Report on the OSBA Web Page and Pollinator’s List**”, by Bill Rufener, and “**Future of Queen Breeding**”, by Dr. Lynn Royce. In addition, Mr. Gene Brandi from the American Beekeeping Federation and the National Honey Board will present a report.

There will also be commercial exhibits on display, various drawings and auctions, a banquet on Friday night and a Research Luncheon on Saturday.

Don’t miss this annual event! See you in Seaside!

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### WHAT’S INSIDE:

- \*Bee Venom Therapy Study
  - \*Travel to SE Asia with Dr. Burgett
  - \*More on Essential Oils
  - \*Apimondia ’99 Update
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## Oregon State Beekeepers Association

*The Bee Line* is the official publication of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association and is published ten times a year. Subscriptions are included with OSBA membership.

To join the OSBA, complete the membership application in this issue and send with payment to: Phyllis Shoemake, 1874 Winchester NW, Salem, OR 97304

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### Advertising Rates

#### Business Ads, per issue:

Business card size	\$ 7.50
Quarter page	20.00
Half page	35.00
Full page	100.00

Copy, art and payment must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Contact the editor for any special requirements and mechanical information.

#### Classified Ads, 30 words, per issue:

OSBA members	\$ 2.00
Non-members	\$ 3.00

## President's Notes

by Torey Johnson

Sometimes I sit back and ponder things that you might think of as, well --- silly! While I was on a vacation up in the mountains it snowed. It wasn't all that chilly but you could see your breath. With the beauty of the snow and the peace and quiet, I tried to think of beekeeping --- it wasn't working real well until.....

Santa must be a beekeeper! Now I know most of you think this has to be crazy, but hear me out. **FIRST:** I know several beekeepers of good standing that have white beards---so does Santa. **SECOND:** I know several beekeepers that have (to be nice) a gut; well, so does Santa. **THIRD:** Beekeepers have helpers, well, so does Santa. **FOURTH:** Beekeepers wear a suit on occasion; well, so does Santa. **FIFTH:** You should be pretty much convinced by now but if not this proof should put you over the edge. Beekeepers pretty much give everything away for free; well, so does Santa!

Now that I've proven I'm not crazy and that the facts are hard to ignore, I'm sending this to The X Files. You may see this on a future episode.

See you at the convention, where I'll try to be more serious!

## Northwest Beekeeping

### November/December

- Order supplies for next year, verifying prices by phone before ordering.
- Disturb the bees as little as possible. Don't break the cluster.
- Check apiary occasionally for blowovers or vandalism.
- Continue the repair and/or assembly of next year's equipment.
- Tally costs for the past year: pounds of sugar used, equipment costs, medication, supplies, etc. Update information on syrup mix recipes and pollen supplement recipes.
- Record yields. Do book research on weak areas. Investigate areas of marketing interest: honey, pollen, propolis, venom, wax, royal jelly.
- Design and build better beekeeping equipment: pollen traps, hive tools, hive boxes, smokers, equipment caddies, etc.
- Attend beekeeping meetings in your area (or visit other areas!) to learn, to have fun and to share.
- Mentor a young or inexperienced beekeeper. Donate equipment, scholarship money or expertise to the 4-H Beekeepers Club.

*Thank you to Portland Beekeeper Association members Stephanie Barnes, David Gage, Rosemary Marshall, Ernie McCormack and Bill Ruhl, for Almanac review and suggestions, 1996.*

## Seaside Conference Hosts Honey Pots Intl. Anniversary Event

By Connie Petty

Members of Honey Pots International will celebrate the organization's fifth anniversary during the Northwest Corner Beekeeper's Conference at Seaside. A breakfast gathering is planned for Saturday morning, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the convention motel. Sign up at registration time, or for more information call Connie Petty at Arts & Letters Gallery (Albany) at 1-541-926-8718.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Nov.12-14 Northwest Corner Beekeepers Conference**, Seaside, Oregon. For more information contact Bart Snyder at 503-245-4524.

**Dec. 20 Deadline for *The Bee Line***

**Jan.7-12, 1999 American Beekeeping Federation Annual Meeting**, Nashville, Tennessee. For further information visit the ABF web site at [www.abfnet.org](http://www.abfnet.org). For info about the Trade Show and advertising opportunities call the ABF office at 912-427-4233.

**Sept.12-18,1999 Apimondia, Vancouver BC**

For further information visit web site:  
<http://www.apimondia99.ca>

## **MSAA Funds \$250,000 Bee Venom Therapy Study**

(provided by the American Bee Federation and reprinted from *The Enn Cee Bee Buzz*, the newsletter of the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association)

Through a \$250,000 research grant, the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America is the first MS organization in the country to release funds for human scientific study under FDA guidelines of honey bee *Apis mellifera* venom therapy as a treatment for multiple sclerosis. The Phase 1 study, being conducted at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, DC will examine the safety of honey bee venom extracts as a possible treatment for patients with chronic progressive MS.

Under the direction of Dr. Joseph A. Bellanti, principal investigator and Director of Georgetown Medical Center's Immunology Department, eight individuals with chronic progressive MS will receive two injections per week of honey bee venom extract for one year. Each study participant will undergo monthly evaluations primarily for safety and tolerance of the treatment, and secondarily to monitor the efficacy of the procedure.

Chronic progressive multiple sclerosis is a devastating form of the disease for which there are few treatment choices – come of which are experimental and pose serious health risk. In recent years, thousands of MS patients reported significant symptom relief through the alternative practice of bee venom therapy (BVT). Widely practiced in many eastern countries for centuries, BVT involves repeated stings from honey bees to various parts of the body. Although MS patients engaged in BVT receive 25 to 30 honey bee stings per session and average more than 30,000 yearly stings, there is no way to accurately gauge how much extract is delivered. The study will determine dose-response relationships by administration of known quantities of honey bee venom in calculated increasing doses.

Multiple sclerosis is a crippling disease of the central nervous system (CNS), affecting younger adults mostly between the ages of 20 to 40. During an MS attack, the immune system malfunctions and damages or destroys the protective layer of insulation (myelin) surrounding the nerves. The resulting damage causes nerve impulses to “short circuit” and

messages between the brain cease to be transmitted via the nerves to muscles throughout the body. This results in symptoms of MS which can range from visual problems to paralysis.

According to Dr. Bellanti, certain anti-inflammatory and immune system response properties contained in honey bee venom may serve to restore to normal the immune system malfunction and reverse the destructive demyelination process. “There have been widespread anecdotal reports suggesting that bee venom may be an effective treatment for multiple sclerosis and certain forms of arthritis,” said Dr. Bellanti. “However, it is imperative that honey bee venom therapy be evaluated in a scientific manner before legitimate and standardized therapeutic claims can be observed. We are extremely grateful to the MS Association for their funding support and applaud their active stance in seeking answers to this alternative therapy.”

Although practiced by arthritis sufferers for the past 60 years, BVT has recently gained popularity among the MS patient community. According to MSAA President John Hodson, Sr., the Association felt the need to respond to this growing trend which has the potential to be very dangerous. “BVT entails a very real risk of dangerous allergic reactions as well as an emotional and monetary cost in raising false hopes. MSAA does not recommend or endorse the use of honey bee venom for the treatment of MS or other disorders. We are funding this study to determine if this approach has any neurological benefit. If the results prove positive, then additional clinical studies and possible treatment practices of MS can begin. If the results prove negative, then MSAA has helped to eliminate false hope. Anyone interested in BVT should consult their physician.”

For more information, call MSAA at 1-800-LEARN MS (1-800-532-7667), or write to Multiple Sclerosis Association of American, 706 Haddonfield Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002.

## **State Fair Correction**

Ken Meier was the mysterious man identified as “a dedicated volunteer at the bee cage” in the October *Bee Line*. Many thanks for your help, Ken, and my apologies for not recognizing you! *Ed.*

## Bee Musings

By Diane Varner

We covered a lot of the State in October--- from the Lane County Beekeepers meeting in Eugene, to the Harvest Festival in Hood River, to a beekeeper in Klamath Falls. The beautiful Indian summer weather made the traveling a real pleasure, and we met some wonderful people, too.

In Eugene we heard Dr. Burgett speak about medication programs for the beekeeping year. There was a good turnout for the meeting and President Frank Moffitt graciously allowed me to leave some copies of *The Bee Line*. We really enjoyed our visit!

In Hood River we stopped in at the Harvest Festival and met some beekeepers selling their honey. Gloria Lamon and her hard-working crew from Boring had an extensive display of honey in all different flavors and forms. Bob and Deb Morgan from The Dalles had a lovely display, and included the National Honey Board brochures with their honey. Both booths were busy with folks wanting to buy their high quality products.

Klamath Falls was our most recent destination. Rick and Vicki Kellison invited us down to see their operation and learn about keeping bees in the fourth largest county in Oregon. At an elevation of 4100 feet, the nights are already getting frosty, and Rick is planning to move his hives south for the winter soon.



*Hives in the scenic Klamath Falls basin*

Much of the farmland around Klamath Falls is planted in potatoes or sugar beets, and both crops are

on an extensive daily spraying program during the growing season. Beekeepers also have to contend with vector control (spraying for mosquitoes). It is increasingly difficult to find bee forage in the area, but Rick has found small bee yards that allow him to harvest wonderful clover and blackberry honey.

Formerly active beekeeper Ken Crow sold his business when he developed knee problems, and Chet Hamaker is in an assisted care home. The local club is no longer active, but there are a few beekeepers in the area, including one commercial operation. The rest are mostly hobbyists, with one sideliner. Rick stays busy with a full-time job, and he and Vicki maintain their apiary while raising two sons: Kyle, 10 and Bryan, who just turned 7.

Klamath Falls is so dry that it makes honey hard to extract. Honey rooms need humidifiers to add moisture. Rick says it would be nice to have some uniform, specific rules for licensing a honey room. Local health inspectors have jurisdiction in this area, and they treat honey like a perishable food product similar to meat or dairy foods.



*Rick & Vicki Kellison's home bee yard*

Marketing is a challenge in Klamath Falls as it is everywhere. The Kellisons market their honey locally under their High County Honey Farm label, by word-of-mouth on a farm-gate basis. They plan to do custom extracting for other beekeepers in the area once their new shop is completed.

It was a pleasure meeting the Kellisons, the Morgans, the Lamons and the folks in Lane County. Beekeepers are terrific folks and we feel lucky to be numbered among them.

See you at the Conference in Seaside!

# The Honey Bees of Southeast Asia

By Dr. Michael Burgett

North American beekeepers keep bees---no big surprise. But the species they keep originated in Europe and we call it the western or European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). It is but one of **seven** species of true honey bees. All other honey bee species are found in Asia and perhaps nowhere are they better observed than in Thailand, which has six of the seven known species. Paul Heins of Albany Travel will be providing American beekeepers an opportunity to see the Asian honey bees in January of 1999.

His tour group will visit Thailand and as part of this 16 day adventure, several days will be spent in northern Thailand in the city of Chiang Mai, also called the Rose of the North. While there tour participants will be introduced to the fascinating honey bee species of Asia by myself, where I will be a visiting professor at Chiang Mai University for the first three months of 1999.

You will see, up close and personal, the **giant** honey bees. A species that is "hunted" by humans, but not managed as are the European honey bees. Also on the menu will be a visit to a local farmer who collects colonies of the **dwarf** honey bee, often described as the most beautiful of the bees. The closest relative of the European honey bee, the eastern or Indian honey bee will also be available.

Northern Thailand has a large population of European honey bees. It is estimated that nearly 100,000 colonies of our familiar bee are managed primarily for honey and royal jelly production in the sub-tropical north of Thailand. The introduction of the European honey bee to Thailand began in a serious way in the early 1980s. We will visit the home operation of a Thai beekeeper that is presently managing 5,000 colonies of *Apis mellifera*.

And finally, the group will be exposed to the native stingless bees, which are part of a university project on the development of these native bees as managed pollinators. Stingless bees are found throughout the world in tropical and sub-tropical

environments, but none is found in the United States. They essentially take the place of bumble bees in tropical areas of the world.

Interested persons should contact Albany Travel and talk to either Paul Heins or Debbie Kauffman. The telephone numbers are 1-800-327-2699 or 541-967-1022.

## Research Committee Report

The Research Committee met in Redland in October. There will be a report presented at the Conference in Seaside. While the focus of the Committee is encouraging beekeepers to test their own hives so they know what level of mite infestations they are dealing with, other avenues are also being explored. The Committee is always interested in input from OSBA members. Members currently include Torey Johnson, Rosemary Marshall, Anita Alexander, Bill Rufener and Ray Varner.

## More on Essential Oils

By Dr. Lynn Royce

The last plant group we talked about was the mint family. There are lots of acaricide possibilities in this group from menthol to patchouli. Some of these like menthol have been well studied and there are probably some oils produced by mints that we have not discovered yet. Another group of plants known for their aromatic characteristics is Myrtaceae, especially the genus *Eucalyptus*. These plants may be known to us as honey myrtles or bottlebrush. They are mostly tropical plants, many coming from New Zealand and Australia. Like mint oils, the oils of *Eucalyptus* have been used in lozenges, etc. remedies for human ailments. Another plant in this family, *Melaleuca alternifolia*, also called the tea tree has been used by the research group headed by Dr. Jim Amrine, Jr. at West Virginia University (visit the web site at: <http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/varroa/varroa2.htm//tracheal>). It was used in a manner similar to patchouli oil and also showed promising results against *Varroa*. A word of caution when using these aromatic oils: remember that many people have allergies to various products and aromatic oils are high on the list of allergens. Recently I saw a sign in a medical clinic that said that patchouli oil could be life threatening.

Through the request of the Wood Products Competitiveness Corporation, Inc., and the US Forest Service, the OSU Honey Bee Laboratory has also embarked on some essential oil studies. These studies involve the use of essential oils of juniper. Some of the data is now in the process of being analyzed and we should have some interesting results to show you at the upcoming conference in Seaside. I can say that tracheal mites are not harmed by these oils. It may be their short exposure time, that is the short time they are outside the trachea moving to a new host bee.

The Amitraz trials will also be discussed at the upcoming conference. We have learned several things from these trials:

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- Amitraz can be delivered via smoker BUT
  - Difficult to deliver a known dose with the smoker
- 

- The standard procedure described by Wilson does work, even in the Pacific Northwest
  - High mite populations still kill colonies here in the Pacific Northwest
  - Counting mite eggs provides an easy evaluation for tracheal mite activity (it eliminates the bias that occurs where different people who are dissecting bees would have to judge whether or not a female mite was alive or dead at the time of the sample collection)
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See you at the Conference!

## By Connie Petty

Our Canadian hosts have announced more plans for Apimondia '99, the International Federation of Beekeepers' Association's XXXVIth Biennial Congress scheduled to meet in September 12-18, 1999 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Organizers are calling for oral and poster papers. Commissions will select some papers to be presented during sessions and others will be accepted to exhibition as posters. Submit to Apimondia '99, c/o Venue West Conference Services, by mail to: #645-375 Water Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5C6, Canada; by Fax: (1) 604-681-2503, or E-mail: [congress@venuewest.com](mailto:congress@venuewest.com).

Attendees are encouraged to let organizers know their interests in workshop and roundtable discussions and business meetings. If you have questions, suggestions or wish more information about workshops or discussions, write E-mail: [program@apimondia99.ca](mailto:program@apimondia99.ca).

Applicants are also invited to exhibit at ApiExpo, to be held simultaneously with the convention. For fees and more information, contact Paul van Westendorp, BC Minister of Agriculture and Food, Abbotsford Agriculture Centre, 1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford, BC Canada, V3G 2M3, or phone 1-604-556-3129; Fax: 1-604-556-3030, or E-mail: [Paul.vanWestendorp@gems8.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Paul.vanWestendorp@gems8.gov.bc.ca).

Business aside, planning chairman Mark Winston wants to share the latest news about his city: The North American Travel Journalists Association recently awarded Vancouver, BC the "1998 Best International Destination". According to Dan Schlossberg, NATJA president, Vancouver is a "mix of water and mountain scenery, hospitality, hotels and attractions, and is close to other great destinations like Victoria, Wheeler ski resort, and Seattle, Washington."

The city has a mild climate, and in late summer invites visitors to its several botanical gardens, including those with Japanese and Chinese themes, and Queen Elizabeth Park, located in an old quarry. According to Winston, Vancouver offers something for everyone. In mid-September, Apimondia will share the city with productions of the Vancouver Theatre Festival.

Native arts are offered at the museums and art galleries. The city is also home to a five-story wraparound IMAX Theatre and Science World. Stanley Park, home of the Vancouver Aquarium, is a short walk from the convention site. And along with these activities is shopping at several districts and the four-block-long Pacific Centre Mall.

Organizers offer pre-convention and post-convention tours which is a good reason to plan ahead. Watch for tour information in upcoming issues of *The Bee Line*.

To find out more about Vancouver and its environs, write: Tourism Vancouver, Suite 210, -220 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6C 3L6, or telephone 1-604-682-2222, or fax: 604-660-3383, or toll free from the US: 1-800-663-6000.

WHAT: Apimondia '99 – the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations' XXXVIth Biennial Congress

WHEN: September 12-18, 1999

WHERE: Trade and Convention Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia

THEME: "Beekeeping in the New Millenium"

WEBSITE: <http://www.apimondia99.ca>

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**REGIONAL BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS****Coos County**

Meets 7:30 pm third Friday (except December) Coquille Annex, Coquille  
President:  
President: Bill Winsor 541-396-5466  
V. President: Doug Soules  
541-269-7832

Sec./Treas.: Toni Wyatt-Kirkeby

**Klamath County**

Inactive at the present time

**Lane County**

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**Portland Area**

Meets 7 pm second Thursday  
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VP.: Bill Kruger 503-266-7249

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**Southern Oregon**

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VP: John Campbell 541-664-4867  
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President: Bob Allen 541-322-3819  
VP: Doug Taylor 541-842-4245  
Sec./Treas.: Wayne Auble

**Tualatin Valley**

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Friday  
OSU Extension Office, 18640 SW  
Walker Rd., Beaverton  
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V P: Roy McMillan 503-628-0277  
Sec.: Jerry Schwanke 503-357-9284  
Treas.: Dan Hiscoe 503-662-4502

**Willamette Valley**

Meets 7:30 pm fourth Monday  
Rm. 112, Building 50  
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Pres: Doug Davis 503-390-9559  
VP: Richard Farrier 541-327-2673  
Sec.: Ron Bennett 503-838-2328  
Treas: Fritz Skirvin 503-581-9372

## For Your Funny Bone

Two retired gentlemen are sitting on a park bench in Anchorage. The first one asks the second one what he used to do. The second says, "Well, I used to be a beekeeper in Minnesota, but a fire burned the warehouse to the ground, so I collected the insurance and retired. What about you?" The first man says, "Well, I used to be a beekeeper, too, but a flood wiped out my whole business. So I took the insurance money and retired, too." The second beekeeper thinks for awhile, then asks, "How do you start a flood?"

*Courtesy "Pheromone", the newsletter for the Alaska State Beekeeping Association, August, 1998. Used with permission.*

## On the Web

American Beekeeping Federation:

<http://www.abfnet.org>

## Check your Mailing Label

In order to stay within our operating budget while providing the best publication possible, expiration dates on mailing labels will be monitored and *The Bee Line* cannot be mailed to memberships 60 days past the date code. As an additional service, a membership and publications form will be printed on page 11 each month. Note additional savings are available when ordering magazines through OSBA.

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## Membership and Publications

Membership in the Oregon State Beekeepers Association is open to anyone who has an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to own bees or reside in Oregon to join. OSBA membership is \$15 per person and includes a vote in OSBA elections, discounts on other bee related publications, ten issues of *The Bee Line*, and more. Foreign membership is \$23.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Local Group \_\_\_\_\_

Start your savings now! Get a discount on the following subscriptions through the OSBA:

<i>American Bee Journal</i>	_____ 1 yr. \$13.88	_____ 2 yrs. \$26.25	_____ 3 yrs. \$37.46
<i>Gleanings in Bee Culture</i>	_____ 1 yr. \$12.75	_____ 2 yrs. \$24.75	
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	_____ 1 yr. \$13.25	_____ 2 yrs. \$25.25	

Make checks payable to OSBA and send this form with payment to:

Phyllis Shoemake  
1874 Winchester NW  
Salem, OR 97304

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## Classified Ads

Classified advertising rates per issue: 30 words, per issue: OSBA members, \$2.00, non-members \$3.00. Copy and payment must be received by editor no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication.

**WANTED:** Northwest produced honey in 55 gallon drums. Also looking for vetch, snowberry and fireweed honey. Call Bee's Knees Honey at (503) 225-0755 or (503) 640-5757.

**FOR SALE:** 55 gallon honey drums \$6 to \$10 based on grade and condition. Call Bee's Knees Honey (503) 225-0755 or 503-640-5757.

**FOR SALE:** 400 four and five frame nuc boxes w/new frames \$10 each; 300 colonies of bees with inside feeders on 4/way pallets; 250 gallon stainless steel milk tank used for blending medicated syrup, water jacketed with pump. Call 503-225-0755.

**FOR SALE:** 1995 Ford F350 Four wheel drive aluminum flatbed 12' with or without Fruetel Bee Boom. Set up to move bees. Call 503-636-3127.

## *The Bee Line*

Newsletter of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association  
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Address Service Requested