



SO*BA Bee Buzz

October 2014

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association

Next Meeting: Monday November 3 at 7:30 PM (demonstration hive inspection at 6:30) at Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, 569 Hanley Rd., Central Point. OR ([map](#))

In This Issue

- 2014 American Honey Queen to visit Oregon
- Beekeepers Ball
- 2014 Oregon Beekeepers Conference
- October in the Apiary
- Become a Sentinel Hive SuperHero
- SOBA Beekeepers in the News
- Sub-Regional Bee Club News

Sources for Local Bees

- Applegate Apiaries**
Andrew Watson
541-846-0404
boradabee@comcast.net
- Old Sol Apiaries**
John Jacob
541-582-2337
oldsolbees.com
- Julian Lewis**
541-535-5817
lewis_adams_00@yahoo.com
- David Aiassa**
541-858-6824

If you would like to be listed here, email sobeekkeepers@gmail.com

SWARM CALL LIST

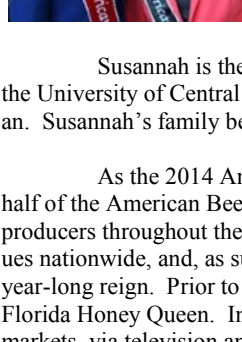
Members on the 2014 Swarm Call List have been contacted via email.

Current SOBA members who would like to be on the Swarm Call List, please email sobeekkeepers@gmail.com with "Swarm Call List" as the subject.

Newsletter Contributions

Do you have information that you would like to see in the newsletter? Send it to sobeekkeepers@gmail.com with "Newsletter" as the subject.

2014 American Honey Queen To Visit Oregon



Susannah Austin, the 2014 American Honey Queen, will visit Oregon October 23-26. She will be a guest of "Bee Girl" Sarah Red-Laird, and will speak at a variety of outlets during her stay about the importance of honeybees to the public's daily lives and how, from city to country, everyone can help the honeybee. She will also demonstrate how honey comes in a kaleidoscope of colors. She will be on hand at **Bee Girl's 3rd Annual Beekeepers Ball on Saturday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Imperial in Medford.**

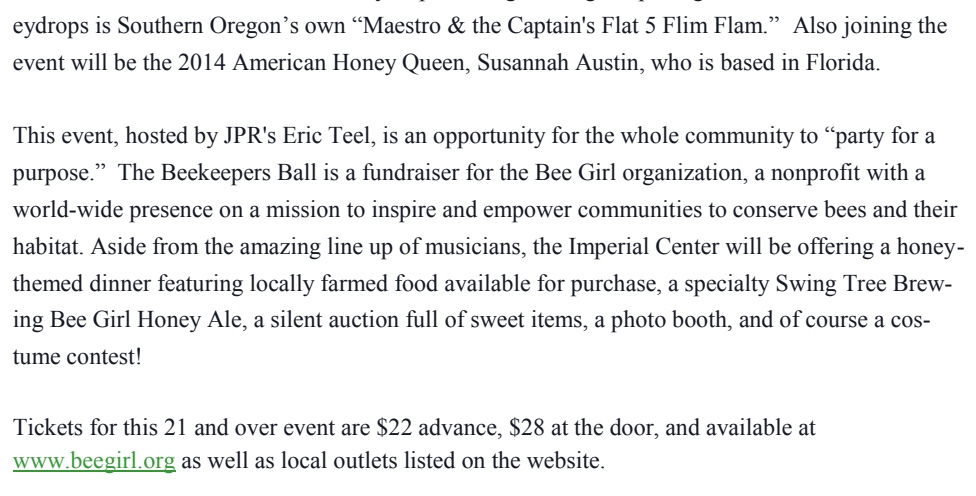
Susannah is the daughter of Kris and Catherine Austin of Orlando, FL. She is a junior at the University of Central Florida, pursuing a degree in biology, with hopes of becoming a veterinarian. Susannah's family began beekeeping through a 4-H project over 10 years ago.

As the 2014 American Honey Queen, Susannah serves as a national spokesperson on behalf of the American Beekeeping Federation, a trade organization representing beekeepers and honey producers throughout the United States. The Honey Queen and Princess speak and promote in venues nationwide, and, as such, Queen Susannah will travel throughout the United States during her year-long reign. Prior to being selected as the American Honey Queen, Susannah served as the 2013 Florida Honey Queen. In this role, she promoted the honey industry at fairs, festivals, and farmers' markets, via television and radio interviews, and in schools.

The beekeeping industry touches the lives of every individual in our country. In fact, honeybees are responsible for nearly one-third of our entire diet, in regards to the pollination services that they provide for a large majority of fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes. This amounts to nearly \$19 billion per year of direct value from honeybee pollination to United States agriculture.

For more information on Queen Susannah's Oregon visit and to schedule an interview, contact Sarah Red-Laird at [541.708.1127](tel:541.708.1127) or sarah@beegirl.org.

Beekeepers Ball This Saturday October 25



The Third Annual Beekeepers Ball is the autumn 2014 event not to miss! On **Saturday, October 25th at 7:00pm**, doors will open at the Imperial Event Center at 40 N Front St. in Historic Downtown Medford. The theme this year is "Sweet as Honey," and the night couldn't get any sweeter with Oakland's "The California Honeydrops" taking the stage! Opening for The California Honeydrops is Southern Oregon's own "Maestro & the Captain's Flat 5 Flim Flam." Also joining the event will be the 2014 American Honey Queen, Susannah Austin, who is based in Florida.

This event, hosted by JPR's Eric Teel, is an opportunity for the whole community to "party for a purpose." The Beekeepers Ball is a fundraiser for the Bee Girl organization, a nonprofit with a world-wide presence on a mission to inspire and empower communities to conserve bees and their habitat. Aside from the amazing line up of musicians, the Imperial Center will be offering a honey-themed dinner featuring locally farmed food available for purchase, a specialty Swing Tree Brewing Bee Girl Honey Ale, a silent auction full of sweet items, a photo booth, and of course a costume contest!

Tickets for this 21 and over event are \$22 advance, \$28 at the door, and available at www.beegirl.org as well as local outlets listed on the website.

2014 Oregon Beekeepers Conference Nov 6-8

There's still time to **REGISTER NOW** on the [ORSBA website](http://ORSBA.org) for the 2014 Oregon State Beekeepers Conference in Seaside Oregon November 6—8.

The program this year features a good mix of speaker experience and expertise. Bee losses, pollination, propolis, beekeeping in practice, pesticides, IPM and a bit of history will all be covered. Our featured speakers include **Dr. Marla Spivak**, University of Minnesota, **Dr Dennis vanEngelsdorp**, University of Maryland and head of the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) program and **Kim Flottum**, editor of Bee Culture Magazine.

See a full description of the conference events on our website www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org.

October in the Apiary

In October, drones are often gone from the hive, and brood rearing is reduced. It is a quiet month for beekeeping. Supplementing with protein patties and 2:1 syrup is still OK, but only if necessary.

Check the hive ventilation to prepare for our wet winters. Consider adding a shim, stick, or thin piece of wood between the top and inner cover. You can also staple a screen to the bottom of an empty super or hive body, fill it with wood chips or other absorbent material, and place it between the inner cover and the lid.

Adapted from a presentation by John Jacob from [Old Sol Apiary](http://OldSolApiary.com) and reprinted with permission.

October is a transition month from fall to winter in our weather. Generally, the weather is relatively benign for the first two or three weeks, and then winter arrives in earnest by Halloween, or so. This is our last opportunity to feed syrup and finalize winter preparation before dormancy.

- Continue to check for light hives. Heft hives (lift one side up). They should be notably heavy. If not, feed a saturated sugar solution (60% sugar; balance water by weight). Feed early enough to allow syrup to ripen. (*Feed driest sugar after the temperature is below 60 degrees during the day and 45 degrees at night (more or less)*).
- Because of Nosema apsis and especially Nosema ceranae, feed two gallons of Fumadil-B medicated syrup. If feeding for weight, this medicated syrup should be fed last.
- Place a barrier between the bottom of the hive and the ground. Pallets are ideal for this.
- Keep hives exposed to the sun with entrances faced away from prevailing winds.
- Tilt hives so water drains away from the entrance. Ensure proper ventilation and that lids do not leak.
- Add entrance reducers/mouse guards.
- All superfluous items within the hive, e.g., Varroa treatments, queen excluders, and extra rims, should be removed by now.
- Find and remove deadouts. Place all unused equipment in storage.
- Protect frames. Moth crystals (paradichlorobenzene) are typically used for this purpose. Stack supers (or brood boxes), and put crystals on a piece of paper on top of every 5th super, or so. Then place a lid on top. Vapors kill moths and larvae, but not eggs. Freezing is an option and will kill eggs. Also, wax moth activity is suppressed if supers (and the frames within) are left open and exposed to light.
- If hives are opened/lids lifted late in the active season (or past), the propolis seals have been broken. Take care to secure the lids to keep them from being blown off during winter winds.

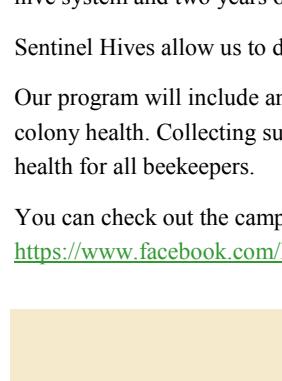
by Todd Balsiger - From the Oregon State Beekeepers Association website

Become a Sentinel Hive SuperHero

The Department of Entomology at the University of Maryland Has requested that we post this information to club members:

Would you like to gain insight into the nectar flows in your area? Learn what type of pollen your bees are collecting when they fly out from the hive? Our Sentinel Hives can help.

Sentinel Hives monitor honey bee health in real-time using hive scales, monthly disease assessments, and pollen traps to determine available plant forage. The scale data is automatically transmitted to our servers and the patterns of nectar flow mapped.



Our Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) team turns around the varroa mite and disease analysis quickly, so that beekeepers can take action. The goal of the Sentinel Hives is that they become early warning systems. We can then alert beekeepers of potential problems due to increases in disease or lack of nutritional resources.

We are ready to launch our Sentinel Hive program, but we need your help in spreading the word. The vanEngelsdorp bee research lab was selected by the U of Maryland's crowdfunding program LAUNCH. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 by Oct.

22 to fund a pilot program of 10 Sentinel Hives with pollen and disease monitoring. Money raised above our goal will fund extra Sentinel Hives.

Any \$2,000 donation receives a talk by Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp to your group. He will travel out-of-state, so long as his travel expenses are covered. Or if your club would like to be included in the Sentinel Hive program, a \$2,000 donation will fund a dual hive system and two years of monitoring.

Sentinel Hives allow us to develop data driven best management practices for beekeepers in real time, improving honey bee health. Our program will include an interactive website that tracks colony weight gain and losses, providing insight into nectar flows and colony health. Collecting such data will allow us to develop recommendations for best management practices, encouraging colony health for all beekeepers.

You can check out the campaign and video at: <https://www.launch.umd.edu/honeybees>, AND CHECK US OUT ON Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BeeInformedPartnership>.

SOBA Beekeepers In the News

The website www.oregonhoneyfestival.com is now up. This November 15, 2014 event is an opportunity to sell honey, almonds (and other bee and beekeeping products) and educate people about beekeeping. It will be held at the historic Ashland Springs Hotel. The booth fee can be adjusted to make sure that both small and larger scale vendors are able to become vendors. Please contact [541.951.5595](tel:541.951.5595).

Ashland folks are getting together at the Playwright Pub (258 A St, Ashland) on **Thursday November 13 at 7 PM**. We are hoping to get a regular meet up on the second Thursday of the month.

Sub-Regional Bee Club News

Illinois Valley Bee Club

When: Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM
Where: Kerby Belt Building, Kerby
Contact: Ron Padgett - padgett25@frontiernet.net

Douglas County Bees

When: First Wednesday of each month at 7:00 to 8:30
Where: Douglas County Courthouse Room 311
Contact: for any questions phillthebeeguy@gmail.com



Email: sobeekkeepers@gmail.com

Officers:

President: John Jacob
Vice President: Carl Lorenz

OSBA Regional Representative: Sarah Red-Laird
OSU Liaison: Rick Hilton

Questions or comments? Email us at sobeekkeepers@gmail.com.

The **Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association** meets at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of each month at the Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center, 569 Hanley Rd., Central Point. Meeting location changes will be noted in the newsletter. Come early to the meeting (6:30) and watch a hive inspection demonstration.

Website: southernoregonbeekeepers.org

Phone: (541) 862-1604

Facebook: [southernoregonbeekeepers.org](https://www.facebook.com/southernoregonbeekeepers.org)