

Treasure Valley Beekeeper's Club
October Member Meeting
10/28/2025
Meridian Senior Center

6:30 meeting begins

Brooklin welcomed everyone.

Attendance: 90 members and 10 new members

Don't forget to check out the **Beekeeping Library**.

Announcements: Steve Sweet has made Master Beekeeping Level with OSU and Shanna Burbank has made Journey Level with OSU.

Happenings:

Ben Lafon and Brooklin Gore helped a fellow beekeeper in the area to reset her hives that were disturbed by deer.

Annual Volunteers Luncheon was a hit and will be an annual event going forward.

Shanna is stepping down from her **secretary position** and this office will open for 2025-2026. If you are interested in becoming secretary for the club in the upcoming season you will be required to take notes at the Ringleader meeting and member meetings as well as updating the TVBC website and the club calendar.

TVBC has been **selling honey** that has been produced by the FLC bees.

Label Competition: If you would like to design a label for our TVBC honey please enter your artwork into our competition that will take place in November. Look out for an email that will give you the details and parameters of what the label must have to be in compliance with Federal and state requirements for selling honey. The winner of this competition will be announced at the November club meeting and will win a Warre Hive.

Annual Survey - Our goal as a club is to be more data driven in our club decision making and to guide our outreach in the community. It is time to do the fall survey again! Please take it seriously and take the time to answer some general questions about your hives.

OSU - Jeff Bergland. Beekeeping education can be obtained through our classes via Boise Community Education in February and March. Members can also sign up with OSU to obtain a first level understanding of beekeeping by joining the "Getting Started with Bees." This entry level class costs \$250. If you would like to continue your education you can then advance to "Apprentice" level by paying \$100 extra and at this level you will acquire a mentor to help with the field portion of the program. If you have been beekeeping for 5 years or more you can pay \$75 and test out to receive this level of certification without taking the coursework.

If you are a Veteran of the Arms Services or a First Responder Jim McMahon has information on a program that will pay your tuition if you are interested in learning how to keep bees with the Oregon State Master Beekeeper Program. Click on the following link to find out more <https://hivesforheroes.org/>

Presentations

6:48 Meghan and Melinda. Honey labeling

1. FDA requires that your label must have the word **honey** on the label.
2. Weight both in imperial and metric must be on the label
3. **Contact information must also be on the label**
4. Idaho Requirements per the Cottage Food Rules state that no medical claims can be made on your honey label.
5. There is no permit needed to sell to the consumer directly but if you sell to a store you must bottle your honey in a professional kitchen and you will need to take a class to do this.
6. Organic should not be put on your label unless you go through the process of certifying your honey organically.

How do you print your labels? Here are your options:

1. **Generic Labels** from a print shop(online/locally): These are designed, printed and mailed to you. Etsy, Dadant, Mann Lake are companies that can help with this.
2. **Design your own** - questions to ask your self if this is the way you choose to make your own:
 - What kind of jar do you want to use?
 - Do the labels you use fit the jars you have?
 - Is the label durable when it gets wet?
 - What kind of look are you going for?
 - What kind of printer do you have if you decide to print at home...ink jet?
 - Do you know how to line up your printer to print the label centered without overlap?
 - Is the label adaptable? Is the label you created able to fit multiple jar sizes?
 - Are you having fun in printing and putting the labels on the jars?
 - Does the label match your personality?
 - Do you have your contact info on your labels?
 - Have you considered using an online label maker?
 - Want help? **OnlineLabels** is a good website to use to create your labels.
 - Have you considered using AI and CHAT GPT to help you with the creative process.
3. **Professional Designer** - This is an option but it can be a bit expensive.

Mite Busters look at the website for details to participate in the program.

<https://www.idabees.org/mite-busters.html>

Marc VonHuene presented on Tropilaelaps

Facts about Tropilaelaps:

It is 1/3 size of the Varroa mite. It originates from Asia and has been living on the Giant Asian Honeybee. Right now it is prevalent in Thailand. It infects new cells faster than Varroa and three Tropilaelaps will emerge with a new bees as opposed to the 2 Varroa that emerge on a new bee. Varroa can live out of a honey bee cell for 18 days feeding Phoretically but the Tropilaelaps can only feed on bee for three days do they must enter cells faster for survival. Traditional methods of checking mite (mite wash, sticky boards, brood breaks) don't seem to be effective for monitoring Tropilaelaps. Our cold winters seem to be keeping Tropilaelaps at bay here but in the warmer southwest states they might be an issue as the Africanized honey bee has been.

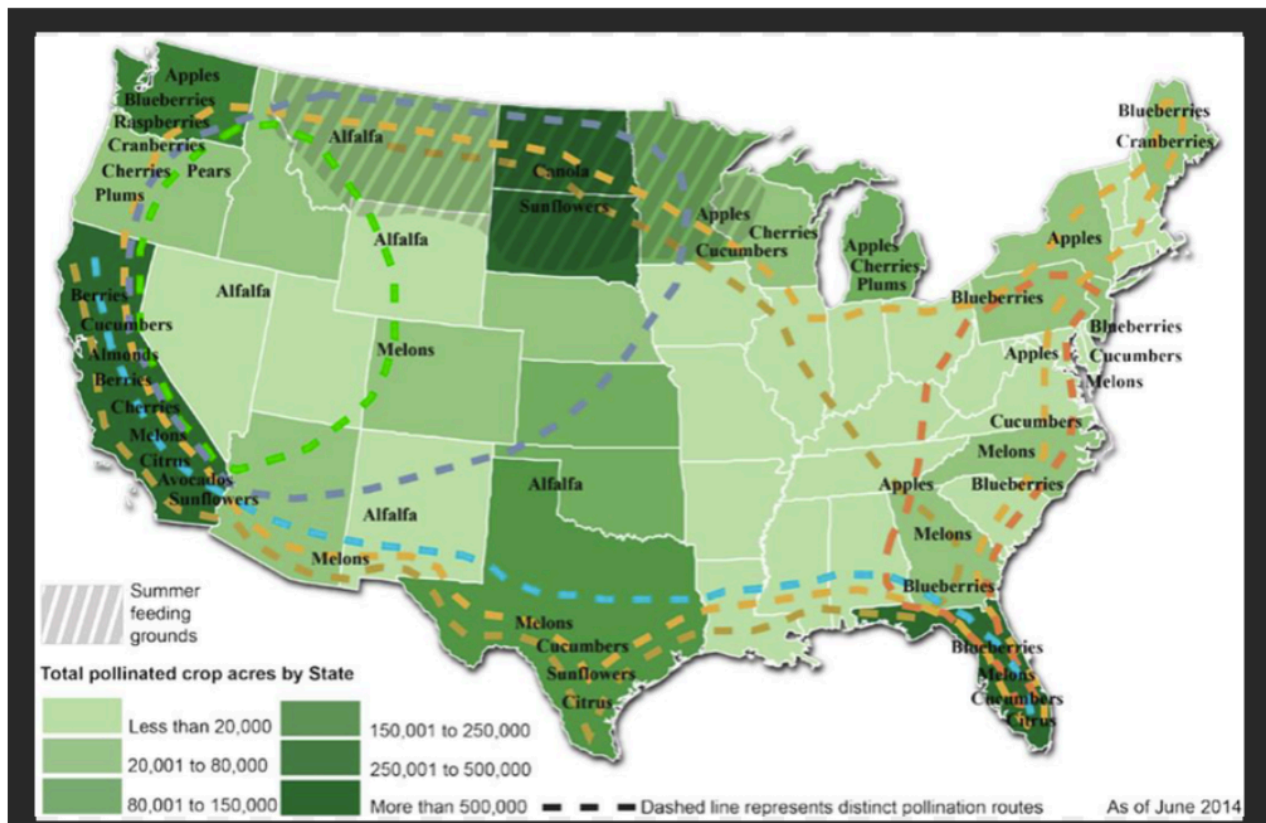
A little more information from Steve Sweet:

While African bees are not "established" in Idaho, they do come through the state when commercial beeks make their pollination runs each spring and make their drops in Idaho.

They may not survive, but they can pass through every year. The same thing will likely be true with *Tropilaelaps*.

Also, keep in mind, too, that locals go to CA to pick up nucs each spring. Once *Tropilaelaps* are living down in "Nuc-ville," they're likely to be up here by the next spring.

The dang shame of the deal is that in Idaho, we don't live on an island. What's out there will be here, soon enough. Drats!



Steve Sweet, Kevin Duesman and Shanna Burbank took questions from the membership at large about general beekeeping practices.