



CENTRAL COAST BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

October 2021

ISSUE NUMBER 63

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 30TH 2021

Oct 30th In-Person Club Meeting

We will be having an in-person meeting at a private residence in Seal Rock near the Brian Booth/Ona State Park on **Saturday October 30 at 3:00PM. This is the same location as our September meeting.** The meeting will be held in well ventilated open area, so masks are optional. As this is a private residence, we are requesting that all attendees must be vaccinated for Covid-19. ***Detailed directions will be sent to those who RSVP via email. Please send an email to the club's address to confirm attendance.***

Topics:

- 1) Preparing your hives for winter** – This will be a roundtable discussion with advice, ideas and tips from expert beekeepers in our club.
- 2) Seed swap** – We will have seeds to swap (or just give away). So if you have extra seeds (pollinator friendly) bring some to swap and then take some to plant. Remember “Plant it and they will come”.
- 3) Discussion of the month** – ***Is keeping honey bees still a sustainable endeavor? (If we have time.)***



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Stu Willason

We had a great discussion at last month's meeting concerning feeding strategies. A number of members brought various feeding devices and we reviewed their effectiveness and utility. It was a very fun and informative discussion. This month we will continue with the same format and talk about winter survival strategies in a round-table setting where all members can participate. If we have time we will also ponder the sustainability of keeping bees in light of increasing droughts, excessive heat, declining native pollinators, and the seemingly tougher-than-ever *Varroa* mite. It should be a fun meeting.

If you aren't burned out yet about reading about *Varroa* and *Varroa* treatments, the September Western Apicultural Society (WAS) presented an in-depth lecture about *Varroa* – ***Oxalic Acid for Varroa Control*** by Dr. Medat Nasir (Alberta Canada) and Dr. Cameron Jack (University of Florida). The WAS always has great presenters and their September meeting was no exception. The link to the video presentation is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcmxcA5qvv0>.

The October issue of ***The Beeline***, the monthly newsletter by the Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA), has some great articles and insights. You can download the PDF file here <https://orsba.org/current-newsletter/>. Also in the October issue is a schedule for the 2021 Fall Conference of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association in Florence at the Events Center October 22-24.

I want to update everyone concerning meeting space and meeting times for our monthly bee meetings. Currently, our "normal" meeting space at the Newport library is only available Tues-Friday and only until 4:45pm in the afternoon. Their reduced hours are a result of limited staff to keep the library open. Also, the Oregon indoor mask mandate for public buildings is still in effect. Thus, the board has decided that until the library space opens either at night and/or on weekends we will continue to hold meetings at members' houses. We will keep everyone informed and hopefully return to a consistent meeting space and time in the near future.

Lastly, elections for club officers and board members for 2022 will take place in November. This is a great opportunity for you take a leadership role in the future of your bee club and help plan the club's endeavors. You do not have to be an experienced beekeeper to participate. If you are willing to help either as an officer

(eg President/Vice President) or a board member, please email your interest to the club's email address and we will be happy to answer any questions you might have concerning leadership roles.



We look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday October 30th!

Donation to OSU Bee Lab

Each year the club makes a donation to the USO Bee Lab which is matched by the Oregon State Beekeepers Association. This year we were able to donate \$850 which is \$350 more than last year. Given our club's size and the weird Covid year, we really punched far above our weight. We were able to do this because of the efforts of Becca Fain who is a honey selling ace, Max Kuhn, who generously donated an honorarium that he received for a presentation about bees and Rick Olsen's contribution of proceeds from the sale of a queen. Thanks to all of you for your generosity and thanks to all paying members for keeping our club viable.



September In-person Club Meeting by Becca Fain

We had another fantastic get together at Judi Irving's enormous barn/storage area. There was plenty of space to ensure social distancing and it was great to see everyone and catch up since the last time we had last been together. Hopefully we will be able to be back on our regular in-person schedule by next year as the covid virus begins to subside, but I encourage all of you to join us again this month at Judi's for a chance to discuss our challenges and suggestions for the successful overwintering of our hives as we approach the colder, wetter months and an opportunity to share/exchange seeds as we begin to plan for bee forage come spring.

Those who were able to join us in September participated in a lively discussion of feeding methods, techniques and equipment followed by a honey tasting. As usual, there were some great ideas shared and even our more experienced beekeepers left with some new approaches to try. It was also very informative to hear from those there as to how their honey season fared and then to taste the sweet elixir from the bees hard work this past summer.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 30th and hope to be able to share some of the important information that will be coming out of the Oregon State Beekeepers meeting in Florence from October 22nd-24th.



Bee Syrup Mixing Chart

As Becca wrote above, at our meeting in September we discussed a number of feeding strategies and different types of feeders. Jim Parrish shared a bee syrup mixing chart which helps you mix up various strengths of syrup using a variety of volumes of sugar. Click the link below for the chart. Thanks Jim!

[Bee syrup Mixing Chart](#)



2019 Native Plant Field Season Update

Posted on [November 4, 2019](#) by [andeaaro](#) OSU Garden Ecology Lab

During the summers of 2017, 2018, and 2019, we screened Oregon native plants for their attractiveness to beneficial insects, such as pollinators and parasitoids. This study was inspired by the [great work that has come out of Doug Landis' laboratory at Michigan State University](#). To our knowledge, no such list of plants (vetted by controlled research trials) exists for Oregon.

We selected 23 native Willamette Valley wildflower species based on drought tolerance, as well as four exotic garden species known to be attractive to pollinators for a comparison. In the spring of 2017,, we planted five meter squared plots of each species, forming five “blocks” of all 27 species for replication. Weekly, we monitor the floral bloom, perform timed pollinator observations, and use an “insect vacuum” (see below!) to sample insects in each plot.

Table 1. Native plants selected for this study.

Plant Species	Common Name	Life History	Bloom Color
Clarkia amoena	Farewell-to-spring	Annual	Pink
Collinsia grandiflora	Giant blue eyed Mary	Annual	Blue
Gilia capitata	Globe gilia	Annual	Blue
Lupinus polycarpus	Miniature lupine	Annual	Purple/Blue
Madia elegans	Common madia	Annual	Yellow
Nemophila menziesii	Baby blue eyes	Annual	Blue/White
Eschscholzia californica	California Poppy	Annual	Orange
Helianthus annuus	Common sunflower	Annual	Yellow
Phacelia heterophylla	Varied-leaf phacelia	Annual	White
Acmispon (Lotus) parviflorus		Annual	White/Pink

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Perennial	White
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly everlasting	Perennial	White
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	Showy milkweed	Perennial	Pink/White
<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	Western red columbine	Perennial	Red
<i>Symphotrichum subspicatum</i>	Douglas' aster	Perennial	Purple
<i>Camassia leichtlinii</i>	Common camas	Perennial	Purple/White
<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	Oregon sunshine	Perennial	Yellow
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild strawberry	Perennial	White
<i>Iris tenax</i>	Oregon iris	Perennial	Purple
<i>Sedum oregonense</i>	Cream Stonecrop	Perennial	Yellow
<i>Sidalcea virgata</i>	Rose Checkermallow	Perennial	Pink
<i>Sisyrinchium idahoense</i>	Blue-eyed grass	Perennial	Blue/Purple
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Goldenrod	Perennial	Yellow

I'm thrilled to announce that this summer I completed the third field season of my study. This is slightly bittersweet – while I'm excited that we are done with hot fieldwork, I will miss chasing bees around the farm and the view of Mt. Hood. I'm incredibly thankful for this third season of data, as it will help account for some of the temporal variation inherent in ecological studies. In fact, pollinator communities in particular tend to be highly variable both within and across field seasons. Having three seasons of data will hopefully allow us to identify more reliable patterns of pollinator visitation between my study plants.

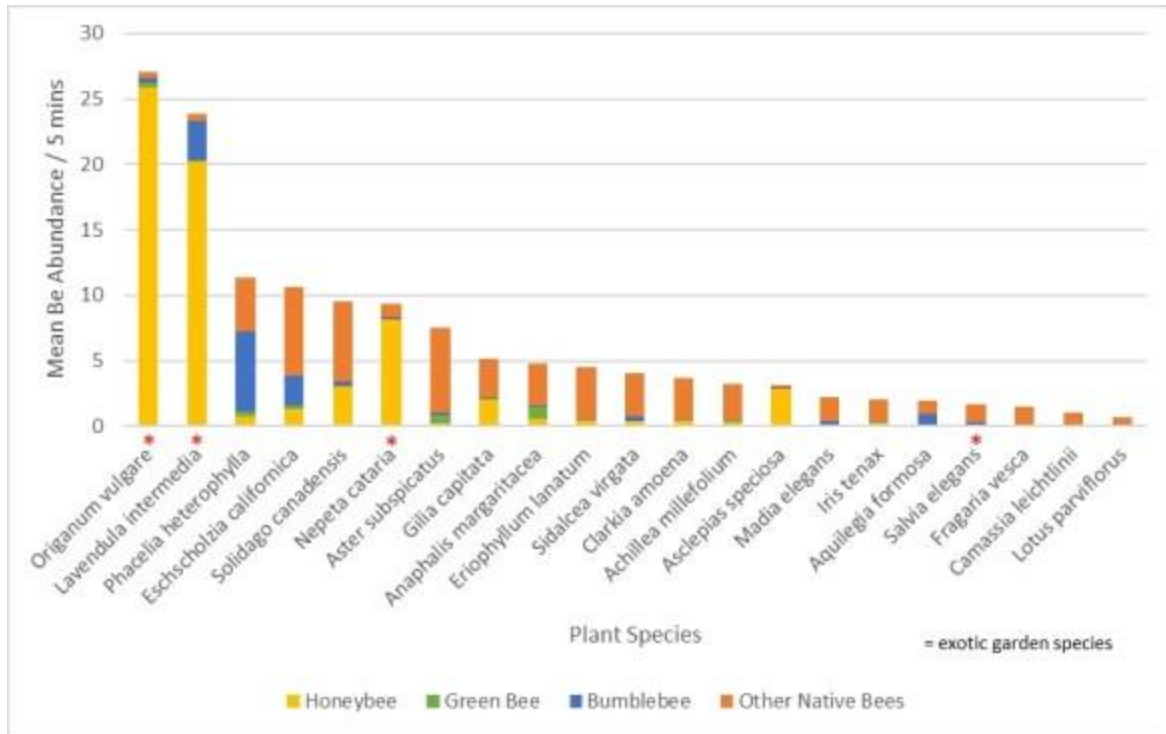
Lots of lab work remains, as I'm tackling the insect samples that we collected with the bee vacuum. With the help of a dissecting scope, I'm attempting to identify the each specimen to at least the taxonomic level of family to get a sense of the broader insect communities associated with each flower species in my study. It will be several months before I can share this species-richness data, but in the meantime I have bee abundance data to share with you!



Aaron and Lucas in the native plant study site, in 2017. You can see the 1m by 1 m plot in the foreground by Aaron, a second one near Lucas, and a few more in the distance.

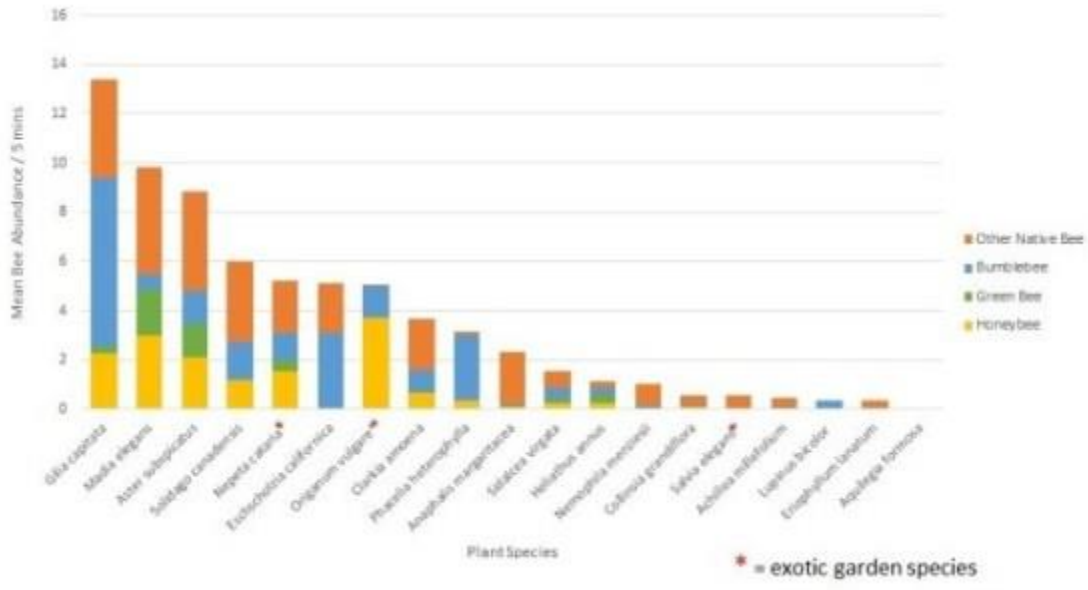
As a refresher, we performed timed pollinator observations at each plot. This consisted of observing each blooming plot for five minutes and counting all the insects that landed on open flowers. Bees were sorted to “morpho-type” (honey bee, bumblebee, green bee, and other native bee). Though this doesn't give us species-level information on the floral visitors, it allows us to understand which plants attracted the most pollinators overall, and allows us to detect any patterns of visitation between honey bees, bumblebees, and solitary native bees. Below is a summary of some of the highlights.

2019 overall bee abundance by plant species:

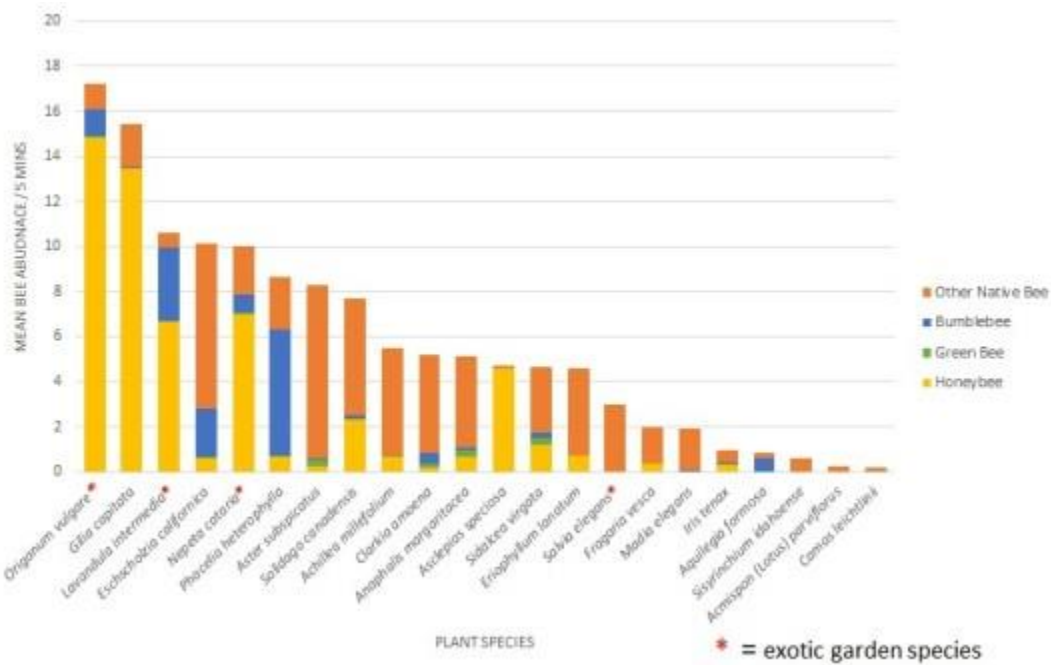


- *Origanum vulgare*, *Lavendula intermedia*, and *Eschscholzia californica* were top five bee plants in 2019, just as they were in 2018.
- In 2019, *Phacelia heterophylla* and *Solidago canadensis* jump into the top five, while *Nepeta cataria* and *Gilia capitata* fall out of the top five. It should be noted that *Nepeta* was the sixth most attractive plant, with about the same visitation level as *Solidago*.
- Again, similar to 2018, it appears that honey bee visitation was driving the high visitation rates of the popular exotic garden species (marked with a red asterisk), while native wildflowers were being visited more frequently by native bees.
- I've included the 2017 and 2018 overall abundance graphs as well, for comparison. You can see that the overall abundance was higher in 2019 for the two most popular plants, at about ~25 bees per observation period!

2017 overall bee abundance by plant species:

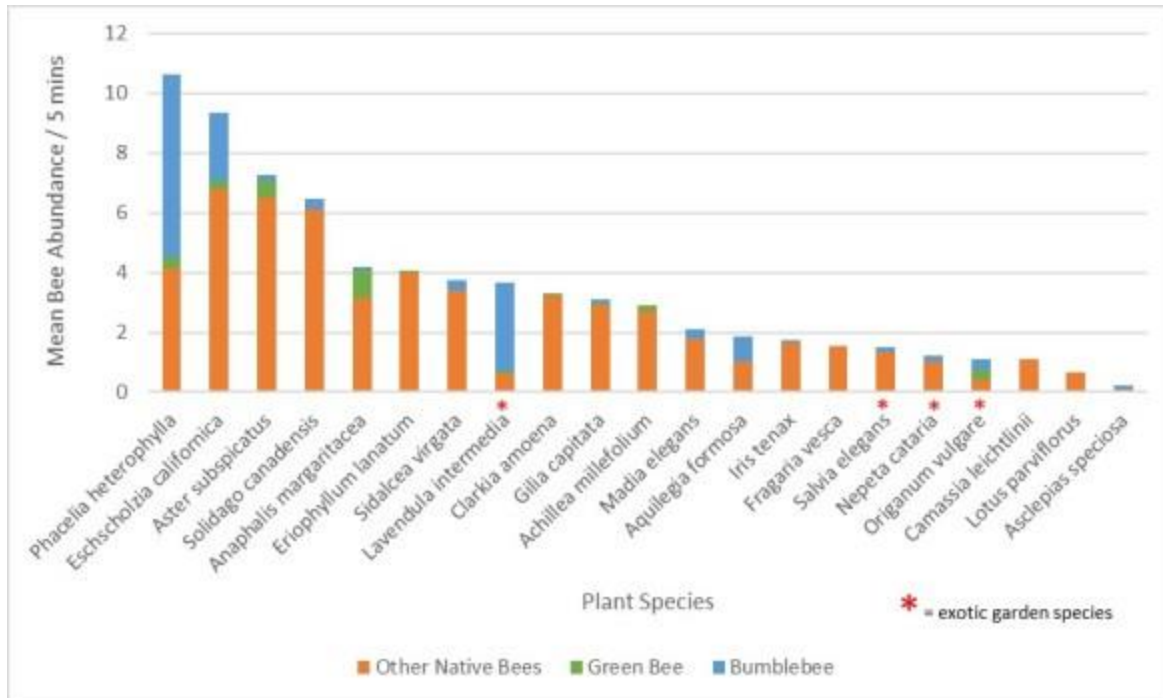


2018 overall bee abundance by plant species:



Since honey bee visitation drove the high abundance of many of the top pollinator plants, I took honey bee visits out of the data set and made a new graph, to compare which plants were most attractive to native bees.

2019 native bee abundance by plant species:



As you can see above, honey bees are excluded from the analysis, the top five most popular plant species completely reshuffles.

- Native wildflowers *Phacelia heterophylla*, *Eschscholzia californica*, and *Solidago canadensis* are still top pollinator plants, while *Aster subspicatus* and *Anaphalis margaritacea* jump into the top five.
- The exotic garden plants fall in the rankings: *Lavendula intermedia* drops to the middle of the pack, while *Nepeta cataria* and *Origanum vulgare* hardly attracted any native bees at all (an average of only ~one bee per five minute observation).
- *Phacelia heterophylla*, *Lavendula intermedia*, and *Eschscholzia californica* attracted the most bumblebee species.



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