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## Executive Committee

[executives@orchardbee.org](mailto:executives@orchardbee.org)

President:

Clinton Merrill

[pres@orchardbee.org](mailto:pres@orchardbee.org)

Vice President:

Cory Stanley-Stahr

[vicepres@orchardbee.org](mailto:vicepres@orchardbee.org)

Secretary:

Derek Artz

[secretary@orchardbee.org](mailto:secretary@orchardbee.org)

Treasurer:

Glen Trostle

[treasurer@orchardbee.org](mailto:treasurer@orchardbee.org)

## Committee Chairs

Propagation - Jim Watts & Dave Hunter

Development - Glen Trostle

Commerce - Karen Strickler

Pollination - Matt Allan

Research - Dale Neilson

Awards - Mary Centrella

Marketing - Nathaniel Allen

Webmaster - Kimball Clark



Orchard Bee Association members looking happy outside the 2014 annual meeting.

## Generating Buzz!

### Orchard Bee Association Annual Meeting

Mason bee enthusiasts near and far convened in Kaysville, Utah on September 25-27, 2014 for the Orchard Bee Association General Meeting and the 5th International Orchard Bee Pollinator Symposium & Expo. The three day conference began with a general meeting for OBA members only on Thursday and Friday, which included a fun speed networking activity, update on the state of the OBA, refinement of the OBA Standards and Bylaws, public and private science presentations, and election of new 2014-2015 officers for the Orchard Bee Association.

Government and university scientists, wild bee trappers, private industry groups, students, and hobbyists assembled in Kaysville, Utah for the Orchard Bee Association Meeting on September 25-27, 2014. Photo: Derek Artz







Kimball Clark, outgoing President of the Orchard Bee Association, addresses the members of OBA and discusses the State of the OBA at its Annual Meeting held in Kaysville, Utah. Photo: Derek Artz

Presentations on Thursday included a welcome and introduction by 2014 President Kimball Clark, followed by a review of Bylaws and Amendments by 2014 Vice President, Theresa Pitts-Singer. The meeting on Thursday concluded with presentations by Glen Trostle, Dave Hunter, Matt Allan, and Karen Strickler, all of whom served as chairs of the OBA Standards. Friday's meeting began with public and private research from Derek Artz, Mary Centrella, Cory Stanley-Stahr, Danny McBride, Kimball Clark, Steve Peterson, Theresa Pitts-Singer, and Matt Allan. Friday afternoon was marked by general discussions about various topics concerning the OBA, including a revamped OBA website, newsletter article ideas, free memberships to the OBA, grants as "startup kits," and

grants sought by the executive committee and others. Friday afternoon concluded with the election of new officers for the Orchard Bee Association.

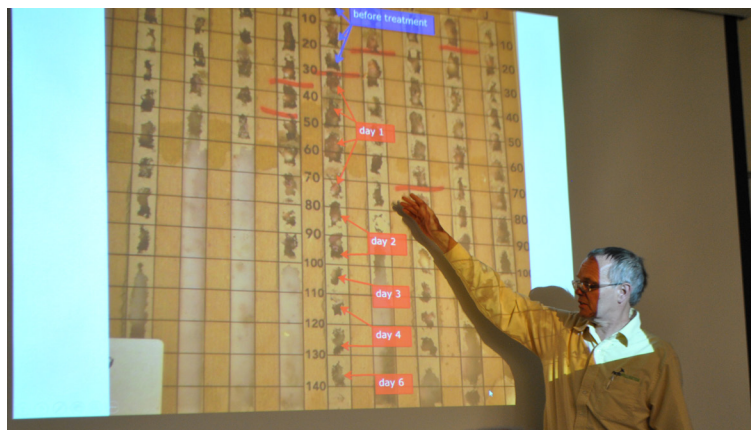
Following the two-day general meeting of the OBA, the Association and the USDA-ARS Logan Bee Lab presented the 5th International Orchard Bee Pollinator Symposium & Expo, which was funded with generous donations from the Western SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education). The fun event was themed "Food, Drugs, and Love," which included presentations by Kimball Clark, Theresa Pitts-Singer, Mary Centrella, Glen Trostle, Matt Allan, Cory Stanley-Stahr, and Josh Hinerfeld.

-Derek Artz, OBA Secretary

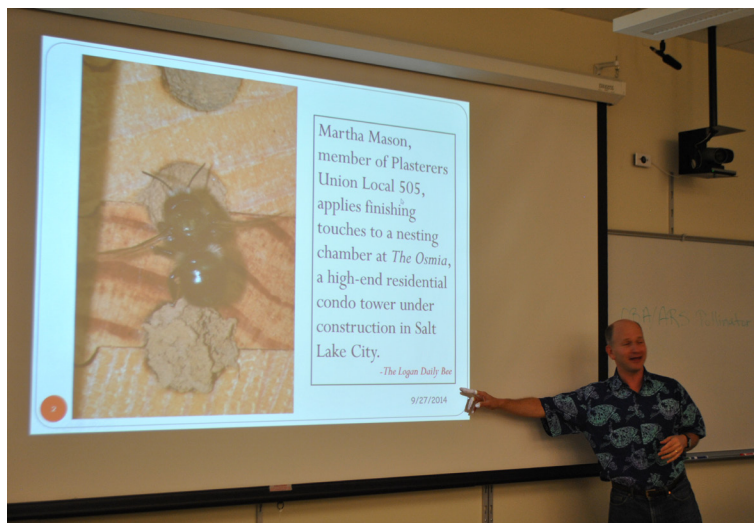
## Uncle Matt's Kwiz Korner

You never know what you've got until you look. Hawk-eye Ellen Klomps from the Logan Bee Lab has probably looked at more x-rays of bees than the rest of us put together, and has never, until this year, seen a case of two *Osmia lignaria* developing to maturity in the same cell. What was Mom thinking of? Can you spot the cell in question on the x-ray below? (You can find the answer at the [end of the newsletter](#).)

-Matt Allan, Pacific Pollination LLC



Matt Allan (above) and Josh Hinerfeld (below) discuss their research and business experiences with orchard bees with attendees at the 2014 Orchard Bee Association Pollinator Symposium & Expo. Photo: Derek Artz



## Message from the President

My name is Clinton Merrill, I was raised in Weber County, Utah. I am married to Makell Merrill, and we have one son. I own and operate Masonbees LLC, or better known as masonbeesforsale.com. I started into the mason bee industry back in the mid 2000's. My mentor was and is Dale Neilson, who showed me how to trap bees. Over the years we have moved into farming bees and have become one of the largest mason bee farms in the country. I look forward to this upcoming year as the new O.B.A. President, and in working with all of you to helping our industry grow.

*-Clinton Merrill, Orchard Bee Association President*

## Message from the Past President

It has been a pleasure being the Orchard Bee Association's President for 2014. It was a team effort and included more than those in leadership positions. I am quite certain we are in good hands with next year's Executive Team and Chairs, and I wish them well.

I wanted to recap some of the highlights of the 2014 OBA event:

- Speed Dating Networking was a success!
- Results of Jerry Mills' and Derek Artz's staggered release
- Steve Peterson's presentation of a variety of almonds in the same acre blooming at various times throughout spring
- Matt Allan's well-crafted nest for consistency in research
- Mary Centrella: *Osmia cornifrons*, Kimball Clark: *Osmia ribifloris*
- Karen Strickler's solitary-pollinated apples (with fruit flies)
- Dave Hunter's "incomplete sentences"
- Paul Beckman's phenomenal results in bee ranching/farming
- Competition for positions in the '15 Executive Committee
- OBA ticket sales doubled, more members than ever, influx of student members
- Almost a \$3000 gross, the most money ever earned in a single OBA event
- Josh Hinerfeld, and getting the OBA into Oregon

### • The OBA Group Photo

It is apparent the OBA is becoming the catalyst for necessary relationships to get this industry off the ground rapidly and successfully. 2014 was a COMPLETE SUCCESS, and I believe it will be even better in years to come!

*-Kimball Clark, Orchard Bee Association Past President*

## Random Ramblings - Bigger and Better?

I have just finished an exercise where I weighed as many pollen masses as I could. Looking down a list of 13 measurements I see a range of weights from 69mg to 264mg. I find it extraordinary that a lump of pollen weighing less than 300mg can be converted into a bee in its cocoon weighing say 100mg or more. That is an almost unbelievable level of efficiency.

That raises a number of questions, which of course I am unable to answer, such as what makes the larva stop eating and start pupating? Out of curiosity, I have from time to time toyed with raising bodybuilder bees, by packing extra food into cells, enough to rear individuals four or five times heavier than usual. Of course nothing comes of it (as far as I have detected). The larva eats as much as it wants and stops. It's when I see x-rays like the one here, where in one case a very

The x-ray below of blue orchard bee nests shows that sometimes females get quite carried away when provisioning the nest. Photo: Matt Allan





kind mother provided a four inch long pollen mass for its baby. Now that would have been a bruiser if it had used all that pollen! But it didn't. And Mom wasn't being generous - she just got muddled. We see this happen in other activities, where the bee starts a routine process and somehow doesn't get the message 'time to stop this job and move on to the next one.' We see it when a female builds caps on cavities which are otherwise empty. We see it when a female builds cells one after the other that have nothing, no pollen, no eggs. And we describe it as 'senile behavior' and fall into the trap of thinking because we have described it, we have explained it.

It is worth noting that the reed fourth from the bottom also has one cell with a mammoth provision, with a very visible pupa in its cocoon on the end of it. Ah, if only it had eaten every scrap of food in the cell, that would be the champion of champions....

*-Matt Allan, Pacific Pollination LLC*

## **New Executive Committee Hits the Ground Running**

The 2014 annual OBA meeting was definitely fun and informative! I would like to thank Theresa Pitts-Singer, Kimball Clark, Derek Artz, and Ellen Klomps for their excellent work on coordinating and executing the meeting. I would also like to thank the committee chairs for diligently preparing their assigned standards and procedures in time for the meeting. You are all busy folks, and it's great that you make time for our Orchard Bee Association!

Now the torch has been passed to our new executive committee. Clinton Merrill is now our new President. Derek Artz is our Secretary, and Glen Trostle is our Treasurer. I am pleased that I will now be serving as Vice President. This is a terrific executive committee, and I am really excited to work with them. I truly believe that the new officers will build an even stronger OBA on the solid foundation established by our predecessors.

This is the last newsletter that I will be preparing for the OBA, and I have to admit that I am going to miss this task a lot. Assembling the newsletter was my favorite part of being the Secretary. However, as Vice President I have been charged with preparing for our next annual meeting, and I am really stoked about that. The OBA members decided that our next meeting will be held in the Hood River/Portland, Oregon area, and I'm currently working with Josh Hinerfeld to identify the venues and dates. I will send everyone an email as soon as I get those details figured out.

As I'm preparing for our next meeting, I need some help from all of you, please. If you are interested in presenting next year, either during the "member's only" research talks or during the public symposium, please let me know. Also, I am hoping you'll tell me if you have an idea for a theme or a presenter that you'd like to see at the public symposium. My new email address is [vicepres@orchardbee.org](mailto:vicepres@orchardbee.org).

The new officers have already met three times, and one of the things that we've accomplished is the appointment of a webmaster, Kimball Clark, a marketing chair, Nathaniel Allen, and a research chair, Dale Nielson. We believe these additions will enable even stronger growth and development of the OBA in the future. We really appreciate Kimball, Nathaniel, and Dale's willingness to take on these tasks.

As you may have guessed by the appointment of Dale, we have begun developing a research committee. That is just one of many topics that have been discussed at our meetings. There is a lot of ground for the OBA to cover in the coming months, and I will save those topics for future newsletters and emails. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me with anything that you feel is important. Thank you again for allowing me to serve as the 2015 Vice President.

*-Cory Stanley-Stahr, Orchard Bee Association Vice President*

## **Answer to Uncle Matt's Kwiz Korner**

You can see two *Osmia lignaria* developing together in Tube 8, Cell 2.

Orchard Bee Association is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit professional society governed by a board comprised of members. More information about membership can be found on our website, <https://orchardbee.org> or by emailing [info@orchardbee.org](mailto:info@orchardbee.org). Photos and information contained in this newsletter cannot be used without the express permission of the OBA executive committee, [executives@orchardbee.org](mailto:executives@orchardbee.org).