

In the spring of 2012, Southern Oregon University students established a Beekeeping Club. Empowered by the support of the community, fellow students, faculty and university staff, this club formed quickly and without a hitch. As beekeeping interest buds, a small number of other clubs began to form this year as well; among them are Princeton, Brown and Cambridge. Not bad company to keep for a small university! I was recruited by SOU students to join the club as a mentor for my connections to the world of university honey bee research and passion for pollinators. As founder and executive director of the organization, Bee Girl, my mission is to preserve honeybees, beekeepers, and food resources by providing outreach, education, support, and mentorship for beekeepers and communities. The Beekeeping Club and Ashland Apiary Project exemplify this mission, making it an easy fit for me to come on board as a mentor and coordinator for this unique and innovative student program.

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