



THE BEELINE

Olympia Beekeeper's Association Newsletter
February 2011

Next Meeting: Roosevelt Elementary School 1417 San Francisco Ave. NE
Monday February 14, 2011
Beginning Beekeeping Class at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting follows at 7:00p.m.
Program Topic: Native Pollinators

Mark Savage Memorial Website – there has been an outpouring of emotion in regards to the passing of Mark Savage and concern for his wife Karen. Please keep his family close to your hearts and prayers. Here is a link to the memorial website where you may read stories of Mark, leave messages of love and sympathy, and instructions on how to donate to the memorial fund.

<http://markandkaren.imhco.net/>

Preliminary Bee Order – At the end of this newsletter is a form we would like all members to fill out and bring to the next meeting. We are expecting a large order this spring, but we would like to know just **how big** the order might be. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated!

Community Opportunities – I receive email inquiries frequently from local citizens wanting to find local honey, beeswax, and pollen. I generally steer them in directions known to me. However, it would be great to have a list of honey and non-honey resources within our organization that would be willing to entertain such inquiries. Drop me an email if you are interested in being added to a 'vendors list' I will gladly either refer them to you, or provide you with their contact information. Thanks!

Beekeeping Calendar for February – 'See that hive entrances are kept clear of dead bees. If you have not done so already, order your package bees or queens. Lift the hives from the front to determine an estimate of colony honey stores - you should be lifting 45 to 50 pounds. If they are light (or near starving), place two cups drivert sugar on the back end of the top bars above the bee cluster, or feed 2-4 quarts syrup in a four-hole top-feeder a using two parts sugar to one part water.' Courtesy of neighbors in the Northwest District Beekeeper's Association in Snohomish.

Have you noticed the catkins exploding on many of our trees? What about the bulbs pushing up their greens? I've even seen a plum tree in full bloom along South Bay Road already. My crabapple buds are bursting out and I've already pulled out dandelions from my garden beds.... Spring already?

It may feel like spring and everything is going hunky-dorey, but beware! This is the time of year when many a hive suddenly starves. If your hive feels light when you pick up one end, you may want to start feeding right away. Your bees will readily take syrup (3 parts sugar, 1 part water) this time of year. Other beekeepers prefer candyboards (4 parts sugar, 1 part water – boiled like candy and hardened in a mold). Bottom line though is your bees may be hungry. 'Bee prepared' to feed them.

News, Trivia, and Facts – follow the links to read!

- Native Pollinators <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/nativebee.html>
- Fun video about honey strings <http://www.wimp.com/honeystrings/>

January Checking Acct Balance 2,313.31
Cash on Hand 20.00

Other Reports:

Nine new people were asked to introduce themselves

1. Librarian – Susan Dolvan

Two new DVD's on Basic Beekeeping have been purchased. Items checked out of the library are to be brought back next month.

2. Website – Mark Collins

It was agreed that the “web” is worlds better. Mark is open to suggestions in that regard.

3. Apprentice Class – Bob and Jody

There were six new people tonight and thirty in class. An Introductory lesson was added by Jody bringing in an empty hive to explain the features in a hive such as frames, sizes etc.

4. Journeyman Class – Gail Booth

Gail made a plea for anyone interested in this class to please call her. We do have a meeting place for one now.

5. The multi-media projector as been purchased and is in the hands of the Librarian.

6. Upcoming Workshops:

- Building a “Top Bar” hive will take place in February at the Olympia Food Coop.
- Regular hive box and components workshop at Mark Savages in March or April.

7. Items ordered in the past can be picked up from Rich Kalman

8. Honeybee packages will be available this year through Can An Apiary, CA.

Program: The Warre' Hive – Si Thacker and Ernie.

- The Top Bar Hive and Kenyan Hive are the same.
- Top Bar Hives have fragile combs.
- - Brood should be kept to the front and build honey storage to the back.
- Vertical Top Bar Hives – usually these boxes start at the top and work down.

There was a good number of the above hives present at the meeting for the “show & tell” demonstration.

- There are only a couple of “Commercial Top bar hive” Beekeepers in operation in the U.S.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by: A Marjorie Smith, Secretary

Preliminary Bee Order
(What I think I might need)

Name _____

Phone _____

	3# pkgs	Extra queens
Italians	_____	_____
Carniolans	_____	_____

Please bring this form to the February meeting or e-mail me at gail30@msn.com or call me at 491-4968

Thanks, Gail Booth



Kim Knust, Editor
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