



THE BEELINE

Olympia Beekeeper's Association Newsletter
April 2010

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 12, 2010

**Roosevelt Elementary School
1417 San Francisco Ave. NE**

Class at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00p.m.

President's Notes!

Greetings. Our April OBA meeting will include presentations from long time beekeepers that will be interesting to both new and experienced members. These presentations include:

- Jack Robertson will demonstrate his technique for introducing package bees into a hive.
- Harvard Robins will talk about how to establish and place bait hives to catch swarms.
- Three mead makers from our club will describe their approach(es) to making this drink.
- The Queen Rearing Workgroup will relay the status of our project. We plan to begin grafting eggs in May and need to determine the interest from club members in having locally reared queens available in the summer. That interest level will determine how many queens we will attempt to rear.

The club's order for package bees has grown to nearly 300 packages and about fifty queens. We still have the flexibility of adding a few more packages to the order but the absolute cut-off for ordering (and paying) is by the close of our April club meeting. This number of packages exceeds the hauling capacity of one pick-up truck and will require that a trailer be used to transport this large order. A couple of club members indicated they had trailers that they were willing to let me use but I do not remember their names (sorry for my poor memory of names). **If you have a trailer that might be used for this purpose, please contact me ASAP at (360) 438-2145 home or 360 407-6589 work.**

If you still have empty bee packages for me to take to California, please bring them to the April meeting. I will be leaving Olympia about April 18 with the intention of having the bees ready to pick up at Mark Savage's house on Saturday (after 9:00 A.M. please), April 24. Mark may also set up to demonstrate introducing a package of bees into a hive. The following web links are for bee related stories that I think are interesting. More and more of the studies seem to be pointing the finger at pesticides (some used by

beekeepers) as a predominant cause for colony collapse. Cut and paste the links into your web address browser to get to the stories.

<http://www.allbusiness.com/government/government-bodies-offices/14183893-1.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/25/opinion/25harder.html>

http://blog.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/57474/title/Bees_face_unprecedented_pesticide_exposures_at_home_and_afield

I have also received inquiries from different sources asking if they could contact our membership. To protect the privacy of our members, we will not disperse that contact information. Instead, I agree to forward to you the following inquiry/surveys. The inquiries would gather information that may ultimately be valuable to beekeepers.

Last note: Nominations for club officers will be taken at the May meeting and our annual election will be conducted in June (the last meeting before our summer break). The officially elected offices include president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. We also have received indispensable support from volunteers who are not elected, including our beekeeping class teachers, news letter publisher, web site coordinator, librarian, mentor coordinator, refreshments coordinator, and forgive me if I've forgotten anyone. I thank each of you for your efforts to make our organization successful and fun. As for myself, I need to relinquish my current position as club president. The growth of membership in OBA these past two years and the level of interest in beekeeping is unprecedented. The enthusiasm of new beekeepers that have joined OBA to learn about our sport and the willingness of experienced beekeepers to share their knowledge guarantees that our club will continue to flourish. Please consider serving as an OBA officer. Being an officer is not really difficult or very time consuming and when help is needed there are always members ready to step up. Again, thank you all for your efforts and support.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

Dave Ragsdale, OBA president.

OBA MEETING MINUTES, March 8, 2010

The March meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Dave Ragsdale in the Cafeteria of Roosevelt Elementary School.

The minutes of the previous meeting are in the newsletter. There were over sixty people present at the March meeting. (76 at least)!

1. Beginning Beekeeper Class Report – Jody
 - There were eight new people in class with a total of 41 present. Lesson 6 was done.
2. Journeyman Class Report – Bob Smith
 - Meetings will take place every Wed. on March 24 & 31, Apr 7, 28, May 5, 19 and 26 from 6pm to 9 pm. at the Lacey Firehall.
3. Newsletter – Yvonne had some extra copies, anyone who did not get a newsletter was to check with her regarding their E-mail address.
4. Website update – still checking on a server and the cost of one.
5. Mentor List – be sure to give your E-mail address.
6. Queen Rearing – a meeting had been held in the home of Dave Ragsdale. Bob Rice was present to share his experience. They hope to have a grafting meeting in late May.
7. Equipment workshop is scheduled for March 17 at home of Mark Savage.

8. Package Bee Orders will cost \$56.00 each and Queens \$16.00. Dave Ragsdale will drive to Calif on Friday April 23 and be back on Saturday with all the honeybee orders. Gail Booth, Treasurer is taking all the payments tonight.
9. T-Shirts and other possibilities were mentioned and examples of logo quotations shown.

Program – Janet Brisson from Grace Valley, CA was present to give a power point explanation of her use of powdered sugar to combat mites on honeybees. She showed how her particular kind of bottom boards were so effective. They are available through Dadant or Chehalis, out of home.

The meeting adjourned a little after 9.p.m. The cafeteria was put back in order.

Submitted by:
A Marjorie Smith, Secretary

Beekeeping Related Inquiries and Surveys

Messages recently sent to OBA:

Hello ,

I have a beekeeping supply store in Onalaska WA and would just like to let you and your members know we are open for business. We have a small shop where we are building woodenware and we have a fairly complete inventory of items see (attached price list) for those who are interested. We are fairly busy this time of year but would like to come to one of your meetings. When are your meetings? We have various workshops during the year that people would be welcome to attend, Hiving packages, making splits, assembling woodenware. Our website is www.sherwoodbees.com it's just getting started so all of our products are not on the website yet but they are being added all the time.

Thank You

Jason Sherwood

360-985-2211

www.sherwoodbees.com

Dominic Ebacher out of Bremerton, WA here. I want to invite you to pass the following link along to other online members of PSBA. What I'm trying to do is get a sense of the different microclimates in our area by having everyone write down the first bloom date and location for important bee species in their area (Western Washington). Together we will gather data that is more general for Western Washington on first bloom dates and these data will be an important source for helping make good management decisions in future years. Everyone that participates will have a share in the data, and if you see it with your own eyes, we want to know about it.

Please, PLEASE pass this on to anyone who might be inclined to participate - this data is too valuable, and I can't be all places at once. I'm really counting on the local clubs to help get the word out to their members through whatever means of communication they have.

You have my thanks!

Here's the link to the form where you can make your entry:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dEdvMkpzZmlVYmFYdmpBVUthSDZydEE6MA>

Dr. Dominic Ebacher
olympicacres.com

Dear Beekeeping organization executive member: Thank you for agreeing to send the following email to beekeepers in your organization.

Dear Beekeeper:

The Apiary Inspectors of America and the USDA-ARS Beltsville Bee Research Laboratory are seeking your help in tabulating the winter losses that occurred over the winter of 2009-2010. This continues the AIA/USDA survey efforts from the past 3 years which has been important in quantifying the losses of honey bees for government, media, and researchers.

This year's survey is faster, easier and does not require your time on the phone. It is all web based and automatic, just fill and click.

Please take a few moments to fill out our winter loss survey at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/beeeloss0910>

This survey will be conducted until April 16th, 2010.

We would also appreciate it if you would forward this email to other beekeepers. The more responses the better.

If you have any questions or concerns please email beeeloss@gmail.com, or Honeybee.Survey@aphis.usda.gov

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Jeff Pettis; USDA-ARS Beltsville Bee Research Laboratory
Dennis van Engelsdorp; Penn State University
Jerry Hayes; Florida Department of Agriculture
Dewey Caron; University of Delaware and Oregon State University



Bee Package and Queen Distribution Details

When: 9:00 – 3:00 Saturday April 24

Where: Mudgee Tree Farm, Mark Savage 8440 Ayer Street Se Olympia 98501

Home - 923-5358 **Work** 360-902-1774

Your packaged bees and queens will be ready for pick-up at Mark Savage's home and the earlier, the better (directions below). Please remember to come prepared to take your little 'ladies' to their new home. A bee suit, headnet and gloves would be helpful. There are usually hitch hikers on the exteriors of packaged bees and may be a nuisance if you come unprepared.

Directions: As you drive along Yelm Highway south of Olympia, turn at Rich Road and head approximately 2.8 miles and turn right at 83rd. Follow 83rd, over the tracks and on about a half mile until you come to a "T" intersection. Turn left, and go about 400 yards until you see your first, and only paved road to your right. Turn right and our farm is the first house and barn on the right, off the road a bit. We have a two story blue metal roof barn, with Christmas lights on inside the barn, and visible from the road. Park in the driveway, on the paved road or in the gate and up to the barn.

HEADLINE NEWS

EPRT Program Creates 'buzz'

4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

Story by Spc. Luisito Brooks

Date: 04.03.2010

Posted: 04.03.2010 07:54

http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news/news_show.php&id=47648



SHATT AL TAJI, Iraq – A blossoming new program organized by the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team-North is creating a buzz and giving area widows and divorcees a much sweeter future.

But the buzz being generated around the program is more than just a figure of speech, as the Iraqi women involved are learning the ins and outs of beekeeping.

On March 27, a graduation ceremony was held for 25 Iraqi women who completed the beekeeper training program here.

"These women are the heads of the household, many (because of) the sectarian conflict," said Mary-Denise Tabar, the public diplomacy and women's affairs advisor for ePRT-North. "The program aims to train local rural women on the theoretical and practical applications of basic beekeeping."

ePRT-North is embedded with the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division whose subordinate battalions provide security for the team, allowing them to work safely on projects such as this in the area north of Baghdad including Tarmiyah and the city of Taji.

Taught in four hour sessions over a period of six days, the course covered the proper care of bees and techniques to harvest their honey.

"The women were chosen by the non-government organization, Rafedain Foundation who know the community and the women who need it most," explained Tabar.

Interest in the beekeeping course proved to be extremely high, explained Tim Lowery, an agricultural specialist with the ePRT, and having received more applications than there were available seats, the team is already planning more courses for the future.

Upon completion of the training each women received their own active and healthy beehive, containing thousands of the buzzing insects, along with all the necessary equipment to operate it.

In total, the entire beekeeping training program including the 25 beehives for the graduates, tools and supplies cost approximately \$23,450, said Tabar.

Each beehive houses anywhere between 10,000 and 30,000 bees, that on the average can produce about 15 to 20 kilograms of honey a year. Bees also provide a valuable resource for local farmers, pollinating their crops.

"For most of these women, this is how they earn income for their households," said Tabar. "They can sell a kilo of honey anywhere from \$20 to \$50."

During the graduation ceremony, family and friends looked on as the new beekeepers were called forward receive their certificates and beehives, and showed their support for this accomplishment with rounds of applause.

Honey has brought these women dealing with great adversity together, and with this new skill, it will reduce their image as a burden on their family or society.

One graduate was so overwhelmed that she was brought to tears during the ceremony.

"A women told me that she was so thankful for everything and can remember having bees as a child," said Lowery, "She said that she would raise the bees like they were her own children."

Beekeeping legalized, students embrace hobby

by Claire Luchette , news@columbiaspectator.com

Tuesday 6 April 2010 08:41pm EST.

Even though beekeeping is now legal in New York City, the bees may not be buzzing at Columbia anytime soon.

The city's Board of Health voted unanimously on March 16 to end the ban on keeping honeybee hives, but amateur student beekeepers are looking outside the gates of campus, for now.

Scott Wright, vice president of Campus Services, said he hasn't heard of any recent requests from students to keep bees. Even with the city's lift of the ban on the hobby, Wright said beekeeping is not presently allowed—in line with the Guide to Living policy that prohibits dorm pets.

Columbia's Food Sustainability Project, a student group that organizes composting on campus and tends a garden, has expressed interest in beekeeping, but president Kristina Gsell, SEAS '12, said the group will hold off until at least next semester to determine whether or not the plan could be viable.

“Beekeeping is a potential endeavor for next year, but we're unsure about how the University feels in terms of safety, like if we had a box and bees were to come out of it,” Gsell said.

For now, the group is busy with its on-campus garden, and Gsell said it will be adding plants to attract honeybees.

But some students have not waited for on-campus opportunities to harvest honey.

Sam Elchert, GS, has been a beekeeping enthusiast for more than a year. But the most difficult aspect of the hobby has been locating a home for his hives in the city, he said.

Now, he inspects his hives, with at least 10,000 bees, once a week in a Harlem garden, but it took time to find a place with enough space and where the property owners weren't afraid of the legal consequences.

“I had a community garden in Brooklyn that agreed to host my hives, but because of the legal issue, they wanted to store them under some bushes,” Elchert said. This would have been problematic, however, since beekeepers need room to let the bees take off and land in front the hive, and room to walk around the hive to do inspection, he added.

But then a Columbia professor helped Elchert out. “I was very lucky to have a professor who lives on a farm in Connecticut ... She agreed to let me keep my hives there, which was a huge help.” But, Elchert explained, the weekly trip to Connecticut to inspect the hives got pretty demanding.

Health Code Article 161 originally banned honeybees, deeming them dangerous because they can sting. A group of beekeepers then presented the Board of Health with a petition to promote honeybee keeping as sustainable agriculture and ultimately succeeded in getting bees removed from the list of banned animals, which included poisonous snakes and crocodiles.

Now, as long as beekeepers register their hives with the city, they won't face legal trouble. Elchert said he appreciated the change, since bees are not harmful insects.

"Particularly in New York, people are very removed from nature, so there are many misconceptions about honeybees," Elchert said. "Honeybees are not aggressive."

Still, he hasn't been able to formally join up with other on-campus beekeepers. "I approached Columbia last year about my interest in the hobby, and a number of people were very supportive, but because it was illegal, they couldn't help me [create a group]."

But for Elchert, the hobby remains a fun, relaxing activity—with the added bonus of honey. "They're all really good at what they do. It's incredibly interesting."

Taking care of bees also serves an important purpose of pollination, he said. "Being a small-time beekeeper, you can take some pride in it."

It's unclear whether bees would actually be feasible to keep on campus, and Elchert said it might be difficult in crowded areas.

Then, there is also the challenge for some of overcoming fear.

Gsell said, "I'm kind of a little scared of bees, but I'm open to new things. I have a worm bin in my room, and if I can do worms, I can probably do bees."

Sarah Darville contributed reporting.

Audio Links

What's The Buzz On Beekeeping This Year?

April 2, 2010 1:00 PM

<http://www.wbur.org/npr/125502346>

Finally, New Yorkers Can Bee All They Can Bee

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125389428>

Membership DUES ARE DUE NOW!

If you haven't already done so, please fill out the form and pay either Gail Booth at the meeting or send payment to her address (bottom of form). Dues not been received by April will no longer receive the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FORM
OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Membership Fees \$20.00 a year 2010___ 2011___ Total_____

Membership Name

First_____ Last_____

Phone Number (_____)--____--_____

Mailing Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

EMAIL_____

If you do not wish to have your contact information made available to OBA members please check here. _____

Discount subscription coupons to AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and BEE CULTURE are available to members.

Bring dues to meeting or mail to treasurer:

Gail Booth
4526 Pleasant Glade Rd NE
Olympia, WA 98516

Make Checks to Olympia Beekeepers Association (OBA)

<p>Kim Knust, Editor Olympia Beekeeper's Association</p> <p>To submit contributions or ideas Email: OlympiaBeekeepers@hotmail.com Call 360-923-1284</p>	<p>The Beeline Olympia Beekeeper's Association</p>
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