

OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

April 2014



NEWS AND INTEREST FROM THE APRIL 14, 2014 MEETING

**Secretary and Treasurer Report, President's Message, Up-coming Programs
Meeting Minutes**

Secretary's Report

Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting
April 14, 2014

Call to order at 7:05 p.m.

Old Business

The minutes and Treasurer's Report from March meeting were read and approved.

New business

President Laurie opened the new business by thanking Pat and Mary Sturgill for the donation of the top bar hive to be raffled at the end of the meeting. Members were reminded to please sign in on the clip board at each meeting. In addition, members were asked to report how many hives they lost this last winter in order to determine association colony loss.

New Meeting Venue Possibility

It was announced that OBA members have the opportunity to meet in the Farm Bureau Building this summer. This would enable the club to meet year around. A show of hands was asked to determine if we should move forward. The show of hands indicated that we will move forward with the relocation plans to conduct summer meetings this year. (Chinook Middle School is closed during the summer months, historically precluding the club meeting.)

There will be no fall WSBA Conference this year. OBA is considering a day long workshop in October. A show of hands approved an event inviting Michael Bush (or similar) as presenter. A call is out for any additional speakers or presenters for the event.

Chair Reports

Jim Reick encouraged members to sign up as mentors for new beekeepers, and new beekeepers to sign up for a mentor. He met with both during the break.

Roger McMaster asked for photos and additional materials for the Thurston County Fair demonstration booth.

Bob Smith called for a Rachael Webber. She has moved and the certificate will be returned. New certificates were handed out.

A new swarm capture list is being called for. Make sure you sign up if you want to be in the pool of potential swarm calls. When complete it will be listed on the website. A club cell phone will be procured for the swarm team lead and will be the number given to WSBA to post on the state website for Swarm capture for the OBA.

Mark Emrich reported on data for colony loss across the nation. Loss is at 35% for Washington and over 60% in Ohio where it was unusually cold for a longer than usual period of time this

winter. In addition there was substantial loss in the almond orchards in Southern California caused by spray on the tree blossoms. Mark reports that Washington State Department of Agriculture is considering re-foliage action to replace forage for pollinators.

Renzy Davenport provided information regarding bee package pickup. Pick up was scheduled for Saturday April 19th from 8:00 a.m. until 1 p.m. Installation demonstrations were scheduled for 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Nucs would be available for pick up Monday or Tuesday, subject to change.

Elections

President Laurie Pyne thanked outgoing officers for their donation of time and labor to the club.

Laurie introduced new candidates for officer positions, all running unopposed. It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the slate of new officers as presented.

Club chairpersons accepted their appointments to serve as the lead in the following:

Mentor Program: Jim Reick
Program: David Bruun and Gerry Christofferson
Librarian: Paul Longwell
Acting Apiary Chair: Rich Kalman

New officers are: Vice President Mechele Linehan, Secretary Mary Haynes.

Program

Morris Ostrofsky presented the Miller method of queen rearing.

Raffle

Kitty and Roger Schilts were the proud winners of the Top Bar hive raffle.

President's Message

President's Message

Hi everyone,

We're moving quickly into swarm season so if you'd like to be part of the "new" swarm list, you need to make sure we've got your name and contact information. Gail Booth has graciously agreed to head up the swarm team and we'll be sure to point her out at the next meeting. We're also moving towards an OBA swarm cell phone that will make centralization of swarm calls possible.

Also, I have heard from several members that there might have been some misunderstanding in the recording of overwinter hive losses, the data we had requested on the clipboard passed around at the last meeting. If you didn't report, or think you might have reported inaccurately, please let us know. We would like to know how many of your hives you lost out of the total for the winter just past. If you lost two out of eight total, then that's what needed to be reported. This will help us compile the most accurate information.

We're also going to move forward with summer meetings, location to be confirmed and then announced in the coming weeks. Since we meet at a public school that is closed for the summer, this has historically pre-empted meeting during a very busy beekeeping time of the year when we can be doing more to address questions, concerns and issues with our bees in that time.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, I attended the Advancing Sustainable Communities Conference hosted by Beyond Pesticides in Portland the second weekend of April. A few other club members were in attendance, as well, and it was a very well rounded and informative meeting, providing an opportunity to meet and speak with folks who are having an impact on various sides of the pesticides coin. A few highlights from the meeting:

Boulder, Colorado has an amazing Integrated Pest Management program that works brilliantly. If anyone needs a model program that shows the effectivity of maintaining public lands without the regular use of pesticides, Boulder's got it. More information here: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/ipm>

Pollinator Protection was also key subject material and covered the legal, local, national and longstanding issues involved. Bees really are the canaries in the coal mine when it comes to pesticides; a pediatrician with extensive experience researching and treating children exposed to pesticides gave a startling presentation on the toxic effects on children and told us that 66% of homeowners use insecticides as sprays or powders in the home. When a parent treats their house with pesticides, the rate of application is much higher than the label. We know this is true for the application of neonicotinoid pesticides used for ornamental landscaping purposes as well. Even more startling is that the rate and number of pesticides over the years is increasing; so, too, are the rates of certain kinds of cancers and a decline in childhood development and IQ in heavily treated areas. There's a bigger picture to be seen here.

Also discussed was the importance of urban refuges for bees now, especially in light of decreasing natural, wild forage. Portland is launching an Urban Meadow-scaping Program that is a collaborative effort to develop lawn replacement recommendations to increase storm water infiltration and wildlife habitat in Portland's urban landscape. And, we heard from a passionate organic farmer who's husband has lymphoma that fought a neighbor spraying malathion to kill mosquitoes; a court ruled that pesticide drift to their organic farm was trespass. The keynote address was provided by Fred Kirschenmann on "Cultivating an Ecological Conscience". At the heart of his message, was the tenet that we must care for all the life in the biotic community; if it isn't all healthy, none of it will be and he gave multiple examples of simple ways that can be engaged at the agricultural level to restore soil health and biodiversity, all much healthier options for the

pollinators and humans that depend on healthy plants and food. Check out www.beyondpesticides.org for more information.

Drs. Tim Lawrence and Steve Sheppard are back out gathering samples for the neonicotinoid in hives study. If you submitted your name last year, you are on the list; Tim's been really good about letting folks know ahead of time that he's traveling to your apiary. Still waiting on any preliminary information regarding testing.

Thanks, again, to Renzy and Harvard for a smooth bee pick up day. Harvard was able to get one installation demonstration in before the rain started in earnest. Be sure to keep feeding your new packages and, as always, ask questions if you need help with something. The best we can do for our bees is doing the best we can do; striving to make the most informed decisions as possible when tending our hives. Every hive inspection or an encounter with another beekeeper is an opportunity to learn something new. And what beekeeper doesn't enjoy talking about their bees?

As always, please let us know what you'd be interested in seeing for education, meeting program and other areas of beekeeping interest as your new board and chairpersons move forward in planning the next 6-12 months of activity for our membership.

See you on the 12th.

Laurie

p.s. - after several years of storing and managing the OBA equipment (extractors, decapping trays, etc.) Ivor Melmore is moving to a new location and needs someone to take over this responsibility.

You will need approximately 8' x 10' of clean space and reasonable availability to check-out the equipment to club members.

This is an important function and we really need someone to step-up immediately so Ivor is not encumbered in his move.



Top Bar Hive Raffle winners - Kitty and Roger Schiltz



How to Hive your bees demo at Harvard's.



Hived and Active:

Well, the girls home and working to build up the colony.

So:

- 1) are you feeding them enough simple syrup to give them a good start?
- 2) is there a clean water source near to the hive(s)?
- 3) do you have supers ready to add once they really get going?
- 4) have you made your first into the hive visit to check that the Queen is actively working?

Just a few thoughts to make sure your hard work and theirs pays off!

January: Top Bar hive construction by Pat.

February: Josh Vincent from NWCAP on pesticides (Nomination of Officers)

March: Sue Cobey, WSU, cryogenic germplasm collection. (Order bees. Elect officers.)

April: Morris Ostrofsky on "Backyard Queen Rearing" (Bees arrive.)

May: David Hudson - more Queen Rearing.

June: Last meeting before summer break.

July: Summer break. Picnic (?)

August: Thurston county fair. National Honey Bee Day 2014 - Aug 16th

September: Meetings resume. Dues payable

October: TBA

November: TBA

December: Christmas Potluck



Monthly Meetings: held the second Monday of each month, excluding July and August.

Place: Chinook Middle School, 4301 6th Ave NE, Lacey, WA

Time: 6:00 pm for Beginning Beekeeper's Certification Program, 7:00 pm for the association meeting. Meetings are held in the Cafeteria. Beekeeping class meets in the central hall Science Room.

Agenda: Each meeting is conducted with old and new business, and a program related to beekeeping. Attendees, if they choose, donate a gift for the raffle table. The Treasurer and Membership Chair sell tickets for \$1.00 and at the break there are refreshments available.