

April 2016

OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS



REPORTS, NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

When the Smoker Grows Cold

by Mark Emrich

At the last meeting of the Olympia Beekeepers Association, one of our longstanding members, Harold Nydigger, stood at the front of a capacity crowd to tell us that he was retiring from beekeeping. He was selling all of his equipment, and just needed it to be gone soon. It had come time for Harold and his wife to move to a more “elder friendly” home. It was time to end his long run in beekeeping. If my math is right, he has been a beekeeper for over 30 years and was a member of the Olympia Beekeepers Association for many years. He was always active in outreach and always happy to answer “new beekeeper” questions.

For the first time, I thought of how I might retire from beekeeping; could I do it with the grace, and strength that he showed that night? After living with bees for so many years, could I just walk away, and never second-guess myself?

Harold has always been a true gentleman, consistently participating in the question and answer period at the end of our educational programs. Never set in his ways, he actively sought out what was best for his bees and wanted to know the “why’s” and “hows” of the science of

beekeeping. He was never satisfied that he knew it all, the benchmark of a great beekeeper.

My hope is that when he looks back over his many years of beekeeping, he will remember the countless numbers of other beekeepers that he has touched by sharing his knowledge and the scores of non-beekeeping members of the public that he taught to admire, and not fear, the honey bee.

I am proud to be one of the many beekeepers that are better for having known him. I submit this to celebrate you, Harold, and to honor and acknowledge your many contributions to beekeepers, the association and representing beekeeping to the public. You have done well, good sir. You should be proud.

Harold, I hope if you ever have time on your hands on a night when we are having a meeting, that you come in for a cup of coffee, and a smile from all of us. You will always be welcome. Please enjoy your retirement and thank you for all you have done for us, and for the bees.

Decline of Pollinators Poses Threat to World Food Supply, Report Says



Beekeepers using a smoker to calm colonies before transferring them to another crop near Columbia Falls, Me. Plants that depend on pollination make up 35 percent of global crop production volume with a value of as much as \$577 billion a year. Adrees Latif/Reuters

The birds and the [bees](#) need help. Also, the butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles and bats. Without an international effort, a new report warns, increasing numbers of species that promote the growth of hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of food each year face extinction.

The first global assessment of the threats to creatures that pollinate the world's plants was released by a group affiliated with the United Nations on Friday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The summary will [be posted online](#) Monday.

Pollinators, including some 20,000 species of wild [bees](#), contribute to the growth of fruit, vegetables and many nuts, as well as flowering plants. Plants that depend on pollination make up 35 percent of global crop production volume with a value of as much as \$577 billion a year. The agricultural system, for which pollinators play a key role, creates millions of jobs worldwide.

Many pollinator species are threatened with extinction, including some 16 percent of vertebrates like birds and bats, according to the document. [Hummingbirds](#) and some 2,000 avian species that feed on nectar spread pollen as they move from flower to flower. Extinction risk for insects is not as well defined, the report notes, but it warned of "high levels of threat" for some bees and butterflies, with at least 9 percent of bee and butterfly species at risk.

The causes of the pressure on these creatures intertwine: aggressive agricultural practices [that grow crops on every available acre](#) eliminate patches of wildflowers and cover crops that provide food for pollinators. Farming also exposes the creatures to pesticides, and bees are under attack from parasites and pathogens, as well.



A bee collecting nectar in Bangkok. Pollinators, including some 20,000 species of wild bees, contribute to the growth of fruit, vegetables and many nuts. Barbara Walton/European Pressphoto Agency

[Climate change](#) has an effect, as well, especially in the case of bumblebees in North America and Europe, said [Sir Robert Watson](#), vice chairman of the group and director of strategic development at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia.

A warming world changes the territories of plants and pollinators, and changes the plants' time of flowering, as well, leading to a troubling question, posed by Dr. Watson: "Will the pollinators be there when the flowers need them?"

President's Message

This is a hugely busy month for beekeepers and our association. First, package bees will be available on Wednesday, April 20th. Mechele Linehan, bee order lead, has contacted everyone on the list that ordered so you should have all the information you need for pick up day already from her. Contact Mechele at mechele.linehan@gmail.com with specific questions or bring them for her to the meeting on Monday night.

If you are a new beekeeper, welcome to the incredible world of beekeeping! Please make sure you have all the equipment you need ready (boxes, frames, covers, etc.) and set up **before** you pick up your bees. This includes some type of feeder: **you will need to feed your new bees with sugar syrup for a while to get them off to a good start.** If you have installation questions, please ask Monday evening or when you pick up your bees. We want everyone to have a successful experience getting their bees set up and off to a great start in their new homes and there is lots of help available, so please ask.

Thanks to Phil Yarosz for so beautifully taking the lead on the event at the Hands On Children's Museum in Olympia on April 4th. The team he assembled was quite busy with over 400 visitors to the OBA display in honor of the museum's new garden installation. Thanks to his assistants for this smashing outreach success: Pat Sturgill, Roger and Kitty Schiltz, Bruce Longmire and Frank Scolaro. Thanks also to Alex Hudson for getting bees in the observation hive!!

As mentioned at the last meeting, the Yelm Cinema is hosting a special Earth Week program that will include a bee-centric film and activity on Thursday, April 21st. They'd love the OBA to have a table there. The film "Stung by Climate" will be shown for free at 6:30 that evening, so there will be guest activities before and after the film. Please let me know if you're interested in participating.

Abundant thanks to Governor Inslee for signing HB 2478 on March 29th, the noxious weed replacement with bee forage pilot program bill. Once we receive more information we will let membership know.

This Monday is OBA election night. Current members may nominate, run for and vote in this election for your club directors. Nominations received thus far include: Laurie Pyne, president; Paul Longwell, vice president; David Bruun, treasurer; Duane McBride, Membership Director. We will be taking nominations from the floor Monday night. Questions? Please contact me at LMPCarl@gmail.com.

And, I've heard from many of you that the overwinter colony loss clipboard didn't make it to your table at the last meeting. We will have it available Monday evening so that we may collect as much data as possible.

Dr. Steve Sheppard is back this Monday bringing us an update on the recent evidence of the impact of WSU's germplasm contributions on altering the western breeding population as well as the results on their research on antiviral effects of mushroom extracts and more. We're excited and honored to welcome him back and his presentations are always packed with usable and fascinating information.

And thanks to the wonderful Harold Nydigger, we've got some super great raffle items for Monday. Bee prepared to buy some tickets!

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on Monday!

Laurie

Secretary's Report

Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting

Feb 2016 Minutesw

Call to order at 7:02 p.m.
Welcome to new members!

Minutes from January were approved
No Treasurer's report

Old Business

New outreach opportunities are coming up:
The Green Congress at the Evergreen State College on March 15th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thurston County Conservation District
Plant sale on March 5th, 10-3:00 tabling and one hour presentation

Sign up to volunteer at the front table during the break!

New Business

Washington State Beekeepers Association President, Gary Clueit would like to work collaboratively with our associations. He wants to know what he can do for us and how we think we can better provide education for our members. You can e-mail him at the WSBA website to let him know your ideas and suggestions.

Olympia Beekeepers officers will meet on 2/12 in Yelm.

HB 2478 update - this bill is more comprehensive than last year and will most likely be passed. It is a pilot project in conjunction with the noxious weeds specifies that agencies would be replacing noxious weeds with bee forage. It is in Rules committee now. Be sure and talk to your representative and let them know you support this bill.

Mechele Linehan provided information on Bee Packages and orders. They will be ordered from Charles Schaffer. Please be sure that Duane

(membership) has your e-mail and it is correct. No checks to the association will be accepted.

Packages will be 4 lb. for 125.00 and you can choose from Carniolans or Italians. Nuc's will be sold by Harvard Robbins, please call him directly.

We will be surveying for overwinter colony loss data in our club next month.

Please register your hives! Washington State gives you a tax break when you register. Also, registration could help protect your bees from pesticide sprays. Each year you will continue to use the same registration number that the State sends you when you register.

Chair reports

Jim Rieck not able to be at meeting tonight, but please e-mail him at rieckjmr@gmail.com if you need a mentor or would like to be a mentor!

Paul Longwell absent

Duane McBride Many have paid dues, but please remit if you have not!

Glenn Buschmann announced that there will be a meeting for people interested in studying native pollinators at Traditions Café. There will be a book study this month.

Secretary's Report

Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting
March 14, 2016

Call to order at 7:07 p.m.
Welcome to new members!

Minutes for February and March will be presented in April

Treasurer's Report

Savings 4,464.01

Checking 1,045.52

Old Business

Laurie Pyne, Duane McBride, Phil Yarosz and Geoffrey Mueller were at the Thurston County Conservation District to represent the club for their Native Plant Sale event on March 5th.

Please register your hives! You can go to Olympia Beekeepers web site for the form. It will cost \$5 for one to five hives. A renewal form will come in the mail if you have previously registered your hives.

Governor Inslee did not veto the forage bill and it is waiting for a signature!

Gary Clueit, Francelyn Heinecke, and Laurie Pyne attended the Agriculture day at the Washington State Capitol on February 23rd and spent the day talking bees and offering information and honey tasting for the event at their table representing the WA State Beekeepers Association.

New Business

We are in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding that will allow us to put 2 bee hives on the Washington State Mansion grounds!

Elections: In April the club will hold elections for open offices. Laurie asked if there were nominations from membership for offices. Persons who hold an office provide a community service and gain Journeyman points.

Nominations taken

President - Laurie Pyne was nominated by Mark Emrich

Vice President - Paul Longwell was nominated by Patrick Sturgill

Secretary - none

Treasurer - David Bruun

Membership chair - Duane McBride

Charles Schaffer reported that Bee Packages will arrive at 10 p.m. on April 19 from Northern California. Orders will be open until March 25th. There will be an extra charge for marked queens. They will be on the road for one day, extra queens will be available (carniolan only).

Outreach Opportunities! Yelm Cinema will be presenting *Stung By Climate* on April 21st at 6:30 p.m. and looking to set up tables representing bee related organizations for attendees.

Hands On Children's Museum would like bees on site on April fourth and an outreach booth for their new garden installation celebration week.

There will be ongoing Port meetings regarding agriculture in an effort to secure economic impact data from agricultural pursuits; Ongoing discussions with the Port and EDC that Laurie has been attending highlighting an agricultural impact study

Chair reports

Paul Longwell: Librarian and Fair: There are 141 days until the fair! We will be able to sell honey and signs from the club at the Thurston County Fair this year!

Jim Rieck Mentor Chair: see Jim during the break if you would like to be a mentor or need a mentor.

Dixon Fellows needs help with the observation hives this year.

Gail Booth, Swarm Lead commented on the upcoming swarm season and lists. She asks that we please be sure and provide current phone number and what times and days you are available. Our swarm hotline number is 515-1068.

Mark Emrich reported on the Thurston County Pesticide Board. The Board will be providing a noxious weed fact sheet and additional information on how to protect pollinators while removing noxious weeds.

Duane McBride many have paid dues, thank you. Please remit if your dues are outstanding.

Harold Nydigger is selling his bees and supplies (moving). \$10 a box, hive bodies \$10 and \$25 for complete hives. He left contact information on front table.

Happy Birthday to Bob Smith!

Program

Dr. Danny Najera from Green River Community College

Invitation: To All who attend the OBA meetings:

Please consider presenting a short (about 5 minute) show-and-tell topic at an OBA meeting. For example, you may:

- * review a piece of beekeeping equipment you either constructed or purchased
- * recommend a book or video from the club library, or elsewhere
- * describe a new twist on an old process for doing something related to bees
- * show something you, or someone else, made from a hive product (wax, honey, propolis, royal jelly)
- * introduce us to an educational web-resource related to beekeeping
- * talk about something else bee-related that our members would find interesting--Bee Creative! Share your Knowledge, Help make our meetings interesting and useful.

Please contact David to get on the agenda (Davidbruun98@hotmail.com)

Reminder:

Plants, books, seeds, and other artifacts are always appreciated for the meeting raffle.

And, if you have a tasty snack to share, everyone enjoys something sweet.

January:

February:

March:

April: Dr. Sheppard on program status

May: Dr. Caron

June: Plant Expert from WSU

July: TBA

August: TBA

September: Time to renew membership.

October: TBA

November: TBA

December: Christmas Party

Monthly Meetings: held the second Monday of each month.

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 is refreshments available.