

August 2014

# OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



## NEWS AND INTEREST FROM THE AUG 11, 2014 MEETING

### Secretary and Treasurer Report, President's Message, Up-coming Program

Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting  
July 14, 2014

Call to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### Old Business

The minutes and Treasurer's Report from April meeting were amended to include \$50.00 cash on hand. Moved and approved.

New members were recognized and introduced.

Laurie Pyne made mention of new outreach materials and introduced new posters displayed around the meeting room.

#### New business

Introduction of new members.

Home Depot will be labeling plants treated with neonicotinoids by the fourth quarter of 2014.

Sandra Romero, Mark Emrich and Laurie Pyne report that Thurston County does not use neonicotinoids and will help increase awareness of neonicotinoid issues in the county. They continue their meetings on this topic.

Thank you to Gail Booth for facilitating the acquisition of a dedicated Swarm Cell Phone.

October 25<sup>th</sup> will be an all-day program at the Farm Bureau with Michael Bush. Registration information as well as info for folks interested in having a booth there is forthcoming.

The club continues to work on a new home for honey harvesting equipment at the Olympia East Side Urban Farm and Garden Center hosted by Billy Jackson. Contact Jim Rieck for equipment rentals in the interim.

Trudy Inslee is interested in hosting a bee hive at the Governor's Mansion in their organic garden. Olympia Beekeepers Association has offered assistance and will be informed when the Governor's office is ready to proceed.

Tim Lawrence neonicotinoid study is still in progress. Approximately 1/2 of the hives have been sampled. The target is 160 samples. All funding is in at \$228 per sample to be tested. There has been a good mix of urban and rural hived samples. Tim is looking for apiaries in the Vancouver area to sample. Delays in processing samples were due to issues with lab equipment and the pollen/honey mix in samples.

## Chair Reports

**Mark Emrich** reported on the happenings with the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

He participated in a three stop county tour with Sandra Romero; the general conclusion being that we may finally be communicating the problem with insecticides effectively.

Vashon Island residents want to ban neonicotinoids completely. The hardware store is in conflict putting up a disclaimer since not enough organic pesticide is available to fill up the space that removing neonicotinoid would leave on the shelf there and Mark working with them.

The Valentine's Day promotion helped! We need to keep it up. "No one wants to admit they were doing wrong."

The Federal Government has dedicated 8 million dollars in

six states to replant forage crops. Mid-states, North and South Dakota and Nebraska will plant on reserve lands native plants for pollinators.

New farmers will be trained to use wind rows for pollinators and how to move away from mono-cultures. These practices increase crop yields by 10 to 12 percent.

Mark reported on the Puget Sound Beekeepers activities for Pollinators Week. In cooperation with Whole Foods they covered all produce that was pollinated by bees for a four hour period. They also set up an educational booth to teach about pollinator importance. Four area stores participated.

There will be an August meeting with State Association Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers regarding insurance for Associations. There has been a rumor circulating regarding a National Institute of Health Study on colony collapse. This will be a strategy study only with no funding.

**Roger McMaster** presented a poster for the Thurston County Fair booth sign up. All members were encouraged to sign up for a slot during the break. He reminded the journeymen that they could get points for attending the Fair.

**Paul Longwell** reported that the club library now has 80 books. New to the collection are the film "More Than Honey" and "Practical Beekeeping" by Michael Bush.

He also request that members return book 30 days after borrowing.

**Bob Smith** again asked if any member knew the where about of Rachael Webber. He has a certificate for her.

**Dana Smith** asked that we refresh our e-mail contact information. He has received several bounced back messages.

**Rich Kalman** reported that the club apiary hive inspection class was a great success! They even had a swarm event.

Hive names results from last meeting are: 3<sup>rd</sup> place Tolstoy, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 3 way tie Sanchons, Turner and Martha Stewart, 1<sup>st</sup> place Aristotle and Sue Cobey

**Laurie Pyne** recognized Thomas Mani's booth at the Home and Garden Show.

She also presented two annual OBA club awards:

Beekeeper of the year went to Renzy Davenport and the Mark Savage Award went to Harvard Robbins.

## Program

Harvard Robbins on 50 years of beekeeping with question and answers.

## President's Message

Thanks to Roger McMaster, Paul and Penny Longwell and the Master Gardeners, Glen Buschmann, Dixon Fellows and *everyone* who made the Thurston County Fair Beehouse and Pollinator Garden a brilliant success as well as an **award winner!** The bee booth and garden was the "Director's Choice" winner, representing the best exhibit that reflects what a county fair exhibit should be. The beekeepers and the Master Gardeners demonstrated a masterful collaboration of plants and bees demonstrating the components of what a pollinator-focused garden might look like and providing the educational information to match. The garden itself also received a second place ribbon by the judging panel for best garden. The garden plants were donated from local nurseries, the master gardener's and the native plant recovery team. Thanks to Pat and Mary Haynes, Ernie Schmidt and Paul Longwell for donating the garden 'demonstration' hives. Thanks, also, to Harvard Robbins for donating honey for the fair prize baskets.

As of this writing, we are in the process of getting confirmation on our meeting location. Please watch your email for the announcement for the upcoming meeting on September 8th. You won't want to miss it as WSU entomologist and honeybee expert **Dr. Steve Sheppard** will be presenting our program that evening. It is slated, as of this writing, to

include discussions on "softer" approaches to varroa control; late summer introduction of queens; and beekeeping tips in harmony with bee biology.

We are continuing to meet with Commissioner Sandra Romero to establish a resolution regarding neonicotinoids in Thurston County. I've also had the privilege of sitting in on a few other local meetings that impact bees and pollinators. As awareness of the issues affecting bees increases, our association is becoming a greater resource for information and connection in our region. And, if you're wondering about what pesticide does what, check out the free "Grow Smart Grow Safe" app at [www.growsmartgrowsafe.org](http://www.growsmartgrowsafe.org). The app was created by the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County; Portland Metro; and Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, to provide reliable, science-based information to all consumers who want handy information on how to choose a safe option for common garden pests.

Renowned speaker and author of "The Practical Beekeeper", Michael Bush, will be conducting a full day program on October 25th. If you are a vender and would like to have a booth and sell bee-related items on that day during the event, please contact me to arrange. (e-mail me at [LMPCarl@gmail.com](mailto:LMPCarl@gmail.com)) We are working on registration information at this time and will have it published as soon as it

is available. We will be sending the event information and invitation to all the other clubs, statewide, and it is already posted on the WSBA website. We're also looking for help the day of the event and a host family for Michael when he's in town.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will phase out the use of genetically engineered crop seeds on all wildlife refuges, nationally, by 2016. This is in addition to the ban on all neonicotinoids in *all* national wildlife refuges by 2016, an action that came on the heels of the WA regional wildlife chief's decision on July 9th to ban neonicotinoids in the Pacific Region (WA, OR, ID HI and the Pacific Islands). LINK: <http://refugeassociation.org/2014/08/u-s-fish-and-wildlife-service-bans-gmos-and-neonicotinoid-insecticides/>

I also had the spontaneous pleasure of sharing a plane ride back from the midwest with Sue Cobey, honeybee researcher and breeder, who just happened to be at the same boarding gate for a flight to Seattle. It was great to have an opportunity to spend time talking bees with her; one of the things we discussed is what we can do to strengthen our hives and keep our bees as healthy as possible. Raising our own queens will help us choose the best traits from our strongest hives to perpetuate and help make us more self-sufficient as well. Sue's agreed to do a queen rearing workshop in the Olympia area next year in the spring

sometime, similar to the one done in Pullman which will be a fantastic opportunity for us.

Congratulations, again, to Harvard Robbins, our Mark Savage Lifetime Achievement award winner and Renzy Davenport, Beekeeper of the Year for their contributions to bees, the club and helping us all to become better beekeepers.

See you in September!

Laurie

### **State Fair Bee Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers needed to help man the bee booth in conjunction with the Pierce County Beekeepers Association at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup

***September 5th through 21st from 9:00 am - 11:00 pm, Monday thru Sunday in 4 hour increments.***

This involves handing out brochures, answering questions and directing questions to the proper people, representing OBA and the Pierce County Association. If you are interested, please contact

**Alisa Shorey at  
253-380-2327**

and she will take your information, get you the proper information as well as a ticket in to the fair. If you leave a message on Alisa's number, make sure you leave a

callback number so she can reach you. Volunteering counts for Journeymen points, meet other county club members (South Sound Beekeepers Association is also helping), and have fun exploring the fair!

### **August 14th Minutes:**

Call to order at 7:00 p.m.  
New members were recognized and introduced.

#### **Old Business**

The minutes and Treasurer's Report from July and August will be published in the August Beeline.

Laurie Pyne reminded members that Michael Bush will be here in October and any and all help with the event will be appreciated.

Renzy Davenport was presented with the Olympia Beekeepers Association Beekeeper of the Year award for 2014.

It was recognized by Sandra Romero that there was the "best beekeeping presence ever" at the Thurston County Fair! Special Recognition was given to Roger McMaster, Dixon Fellows and Paul and Penny Longwell for their hard work in putting together the Fair Booth and Pollinator Garden this year. Paul showed off the ribbon that Penny earned for **the Pollinator Garden because it best represented what a fair booth should accomplish.**

Roger McMaster recognized all Fair Booth participants and Laurie Pyne for the new outreach material and Glen Buschman for providing native pollinator materials.

#### **New business**

Glen Buschman reported on the native pollinator class. The class spent the first ½ hour catching and identifying bumble bees. Glen would like to continue with the classes if there is enough interest. He would prefer to meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month.

During a meeting with Sandra Romero regarding neonicotinoids it was learned that the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be banning neonicotinoid use in the Pacific Region which includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

#### **Officer Reports**

**Mark Emerich** gave a big thank you to all Olympia Bee Keeper members who called to help with apiaries impacted by the wildfires in Eastern Washington. Forage will be a huge issue for those apiaries for the next 4 to 5 years. They will need help to set up off site in areas such as State properties until the impacted areas are able to sustain forage again.

The Washington Beekeepers Association is still working on finding insurance for associations and will be submitting numbers at the end of the week.

Mark also reported that two weeks prior to this meeting the Department of Ecology flew over South Bend and spread neonicotinoid in an attempt to protect the oyster beds there.

**Renzy Davenport** relayed an invitation to assist with the Puyallup Fair from the Pierce County Beekeepers.

**Program**

David Braun, Paul Longwell and Pat Sturgill on winterizing our hives.

**Paul and Penny's Garden - Thurston County Fair 2014**





**Harvard Robbins:** receives Mark Savage Lifetime Achievement Award



**Renzy Davenport:** receives Beekeeper of the Year Award

# At California Resort, Bees Are a Plus



[The Carmel Valley Ranch resort](#) in Monterey County, Calif., will spotlight its tiny buzzing residents during National Honey Month in September through an array of activities.

The 500-acre resort introduced bees in 2010 to complement its organic garden filled with more than 7,000 lavender plants. The beekeeper John Russo said that the resort’s riverside location is ideal since the bees need moisture “to turn themselves into little air-conditioning units to stay cool.”

The ranch produces around 400 pounds of honey each year.

In one program, guests can learn about the honey harvest cycle from Mr. Russo in a hands-on way, by “uncapping” (a process similar to raking) the honeycombs that are freshly cut from one of the 14 hives on property. They also will extract honey by placing the combs in a manual extractor, (\$35 for 90 minutes).

A Signature Beekeeping program is offered several days each week, where guests suit up and enter an apiary to study the patterns of thousands of Italian honeybees while receiving tips and field notes from Mr. Russo (\$60 for a 90-minute tour that includes honey and lavender beeswax souvenirs).

A complimentary open-house-style Garden Harvest Party on Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. offers samples of honey harvested throughout the year as well as beer and salt tastings (the ranch’s resident hens also make an appearance).

The marketing manager Will Schaeffler attributes the nutrient-rich soil and pesticide-free environment as factors that help the bees thrive, despite news of colony collapse in other parts of the country. “When the lavender is blooming, the bees are all over the flowers — it’s like a very crowded airport,” he said .

Invitation: To All who attend the OBA meetings:

Please consider presenting a short (about 5 minute) show-and-tell topic at the April 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](mailto:Davidbruun98@hotmail.com))

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Reminder: Apprentice Beekeepers Class is growing so arrive early if you want a seat.

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.

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**January:**

**February:**

**March:**

**April:**

**May:**

**June:**

**July:** Meeting to be held at Farm Bureau Building, 975 Carpenter Rd. Program by Harvard Robbins.

**August:** Meeting at Farm Bureau - Program will be on Harvesting and Extraction.

**September:** Time to renew membership.

**October:** TBA

**November:** TBA

**December:**TBA

**Monthly Meetings:** held the second Monday of each month.

**Place:** *[ At this time, location is not yet confirmed. Watch your email.]*

**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.