



# THE BEELINE

DECEMBER 2011

## DID YOU KNOW

- Between 20,000 and 60,000 bees live in a single hive.
- Queen bee can lay 1,500 eggs a day and live up to two years.
- Worker bees are sterile females, and only live 40 days in the summer.

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## President's Note

At this time of the year our thoughts turn to family, and not so much about our little charges. By this time we hope that the winterizing that we did this fall will keep our bees warm, and dry for the long wet winters that we have in the North West. It is hard not to second guess how well we have set up the bees for the winter. Now it is up to them to manage their way through the winter.

On another note, we will be getting together for the holiday party. Besides the food and gift exchange we will be voting on the Mark Savage award, and the beekeeper of the year. We will also be looking for new leadership for the board for the coming year. Please consider giving

back to the association some time to help. Keep us moving forward. February will call for candidates for office. Followed by elections in May. All board positions are open. I know that this is a very busy time of year for all of us. I do hope that all of you make some time to join us for the party. It is always a fun time to just sit and enjoy some good food and good company. As another year has come and gone. I hope we have all taken away some new knowledge of beekeeping, and maybe even ourselves. Many thanks to all who have given of their time to help others with their hives, worked at the fairs, time in schools, and time out in the community. The Association was represented at 4 different land use, and land

planning meeting. A total of 9 meetings in all to help the Board members to understand the importance of beekeeping to the whole planning process. During the process we have educated, and helped make changes to legislation that will make beekeeping in towns and cities in our area more "bee friendly". My hope is that the interest in beekeeping will continue for years to come. The press has started to treat C.C.D. as "old news", and back page updates are lost next to the shopping ad's. As the bees can't speak for themselves, we must continue to teach and be vocal. This will shape the new year to come.

Thank you all!  
Mark Emrich

## Winter Reminders

Winter can be the most difficult time for bees. This is the time of year when most losses occur. Don't forget to feed bees if honey supplies are low. According to Beeworks, a queen in her second season has a 50% chance of failing during the winter. They recommend re-queen in the fall. They also

mention the need to ventilate the hive during the wettest time of the year. Warm air condenses on cold surfaces which forms ice, thus melting during the warmer days, dripping water on the cluster. Wrapping the hive in black tar paper can help keep the hive dry, and prevents additional wetting of the hive

sides. The Beeworks author noted the only time he lost hives (in 19 years) was the one time he did not wrap a few of his hives. He noted those wrapped were thriving, while the unwrapped hives were failing. More information go to: <http://www.beeworks.com>



## Hanukkah

Israel is called the land of milk and honey, and while there is some debate over whether that refers to date honey or bee honey, there is no debate as to the importance of honey in Judaism — especially at this time of year. Honey plays a big role in Rosh Hashanah and appears several times in the Torah,” says Rabbi Moshe Trager of Los Gatos. “Because it’s packed with nutrients and sweetness, honey is used in the Torah as a metaphor. Like honey, the Torah is sweet and feeds the soul.”

## November Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2011 minute notes:

Approximately 55 people attended the meeting, and approximately 25 people attended the class.

Becky Emrich had sign-up sheets for the December Potluck.

Treasurer’s Report: Checking \$2089, Savings \$1411.43, and cash on hand \$20.00.

November potluck. December 12<sup>th</sup>. Start at 6:30 pm.

Mentor Report: Rich Kalman provided recognition certificates to those who participated in the mentoring program. A new volunteer (Paul) will take over the mentoring program.

Gail Booth discussed Heifer International bee program. For the last few years the club provided funds to this program. The club accepted the motion to provide funds this year.

Laurie Pyne mentioned the Olympia Beekeeping Association merchandise. She provided extra order forms. She can take order until November 23rd.

Future discussions:

- Have an entomology professor discuss bee husbandry and new information.
- Newbee meeting.
- Equipment workshop.
- 10 minute update, what beekeepers should be thinking for the following month.
- How to show honey.
- Bees wax.
- Steve Shepard presentation.
- How to prevent yellow jacket programs.
- Queen rearing discussion.
- Speaker on CCD.
- Movie night (Nicotine and/or Mutant Bee movies).
- Non-traditional beekeeping.
- Re-queening information.
- New equipment workshop.
- Proper way to split a hive.
- Bee diseases.
- Feeding strategies.
- Doctor or nurse to discuss allergies.

Had a 15 minute break at 7:45.

At 8:09 Bob Smith handed out certificates to those that completed the beginning class.

Roger facilitated a discussion how much we should be feeding bees.

Mark Emrich provided details on some of the presentations from the Washington State Beekeeping Convention. He discussed a queen rearing study and air quality in the hive.

*“Don’t forget to bring your own plates and silverware to the potluck”.*

*“Bring a slightly used or new gift (\$20 or under) for the annual white elephant gift exchange. Better hide that gift, or some might steal it”!*

# Happy Holidays!

Please join us for good food  
and good cheer

Monday December 12, 2011

6:30PM

Chinook Middle School

Beverages provided as well  
as Ham and Turkey

Please bring a side dish or  
dessert

No Class this night

Bring a gift for the gift  
exchange



**Yvonne Dettlaff**

**Newsletter Editor**

**360.868.4596**

**Don't Forget the  
Next Meeting Party is  
December 12**

**Potluck starts at 6:30!**

**Party is located at  
Chinook Middle School  
4301 6th Ave.  
Lacey, WA 98516**



**OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2012**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE BY 12/31/2011**

**RETURN IN PERSON AT MEETING OR MAIL TO :**

**Becky Emrich**

**PO Box 1039 Rochester, WA 98579**

**NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**ANY CHANGES TO PREVIOUS INFORMATION ? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_**

**IF YES PLEASE LIST CHANGES**

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**DUES ARE \$ 20.00/YEAR CHECK OR CASH.**

**AS A CLUB WE HAVE MANY ACTIVIES THAT NEED VOLUNTEERS PLEASE LIST WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO OFFER YOUR TIME TO ASSIST WITH. ie : THURSTON CO. FAIR, COMMITTEE, NEWSLETTER BEELINE, ETC**

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