

December 2013

# OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.



## NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR ALL OLYMPIA AREA BEEKEEPERS

January classes and meeting will be on Monday, January 13th, 2014. See you all there.

### January 13th Program:

10 min	Description of New Website	Dana
20-30 min	Building a Top Bar Hive Pat	
20-30 min	"Discussing Lessons Learned from Last Year, and Looking Ahead to Spring" based on Laurie's suggestions, extemporaneous presentation by club members facilitated by Rich	

## President's Message

Happy New Year! We've got a great year ahead with lots coming up in the club and in beekeeping. We are confirmed for March 8th for the film screening of "More than Honey" on the Evergreen State College Campus. We will be working with the beekeeping students there and creating a community evening event to learn more about bees and to engage the community to learn what they can do to help. Please mark your calendars. The filmmaker, Markus Imhoof, is tentatively scheduled to Skype in that evening with us for questions and answers. Additionally, the OBA Board met in December to goal set and plan for the new year. One such goal is working towards establishing a club apiary. We're also working to streamline the swarm call "process" for a smoother and more effective swarm retrieval program. The new OBA website will also serve to hold more information in one place that is easily accessible for our club members and to also provide an online resource for useful videos, articles, calendar etc. We're also going to trial some live broadcasting and club videotaping, i.e. installing a hive package, hive inspection, etc. to augment visual resources for folks in addition to mentorship and apprentice and journeymen's classes. The program committee is getting a great lineup of speakers together for our upcoming regular meetings, and we're planning a summer honey extraction workshop so people that have never extracted honey before can get an idea of what's involved. OBA's presence at the Thurston County Fair will be increased this year with a garden display and a few other additions potentially that we'll confirm after the Fair Board meeting next week.

This year, the honeybee has been chosen by Samba Olyway as the species they will represent in the 2014 Procession of the Species Parade in Olympia during Earth Week in April. Over 80 dancers and 50 drummers form Samba Olywa, and each year they choose a species as their theme, to raise awareness of that species and the problems it is facing. They also participate in other Olympia area events and in the Fremont Solstice Parade in Seattle in June. We will be working with them and providing information as they outreach to learn more about bees.

On the state and legislative front, the State Honeybee Work Group met in early December. This group is comprised of commercial beekeepers, small scale beekeepers, representatives from tree fruit growers and seed farmers, WSU representatives and members from the WSDA budget policy office. The group was formed as a proviso for the WA Dept. of Agriculture when the WA state legislature extended the B&O tax for beekeepers earlier in 2013. The group's task is to consider issues facing beekeepers in the state and to recommend policies and actions that would have a positive impact on WA state beekeepers. The group's first meeting included discussions on bee health and habitat; crop pollination and the interdependence between farmers and beekeepers; costs to operate various scales of beekeeping operations; and regulations affecting beekeepers. Check the WSBA website for updates and more information as it becomes available.

[www.wasba.org](http://www.wasba.org)

With the warm and sunny stretch, it made for a perfect opportunity to peek into hives. I've been hearing from a number of people that they've needed to add food for hives with low stores. It'll be spring soon (as evidenced by the beekeeping supply catalogues arriving in the mail) so it's never too early to start thinking about your springtime strategizing, repairing, building and planning.

Here's to a great year of beekeeping in 2014.

Laurie

<p>Treasurer's Report: Checking \$3065.78 Savings \$5130.24</p>
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## **Invitation to All who attend the OBA meetings:**

Please consider presenting a short (about 5-10 minute) show-and-tell topic at one of the meetings: For Example, you may:

- ◆ Review 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 related to bees
- ◆ Demonstrate something you made from from a hive product
- ◆ Introduce and educational web-resource related to beekeeping
- ◆ Present a topic related to beekeeping of interest to members

Share your Knowledge, Help make our meetings interesting and useful.

Please contact Rich to get on the program: [rich.beekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:rich.beekeeper@gmail.com)

### **December Program:**

**Devoted to the Christmas Party. Happy New Year to all!!**

## “Accused of Harming Bees, Bayer Researches a new Culprit”

Open this URL in your browser to read the full story sent to us by Roy.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/12/business/energy-environment/accused-of-harming-bees-bayer-researches-a-different-culprit.html?emc=eta1>

## **Why Should the Public Care About What Happens to Honey Bees?**



Bee pollination is responsible for more than \$15 billion in increased crop value each year. About one mouthful in three in our diet directly or indirectly benefits from honey bee pollination. Commercial production of many specialty crops like almonds and other tree nuts, berries, fruits and vegetables are dependent on pollinated by honey bees. These are the foods that give our diet diversity, flavor, and nutrition.

Honey bees are not native to the New World; they came from Europe with the first settlers. There are native pollinators in the United States, but honey bees are more prolific and easier to manage on a commercial level for pollination of a wide variety of crops. Almonds, for example, are completely dependent on honey bees for pollination. In California, the almond industry requires the use of 1.4 million colonies of honey bees, approximately 60 percent of all managed honey bee colonies in the United States.





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.

**January:** Top Bar hive construction by Pat.

**February:** Tentative - Sue Cobey on Queen Rearing. (Nomination of Officers)

**March:** Morris Ostrofsky on Queens. (Order bees. Elect officers.)

**April:** Bees arrive.

**May:** What To Do Now!

**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.