

December 2014

OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS



NEWS AND INTEREST TO START THE NEW YEAR

Secretary and Treasurer Report, see November issue for last minutes.

Short issue this month due to the Holidays and the bees sleeping in.

President's Message

Happy New Year, everyone!

Thanks to the Pat and Mary Sturgill, Paul Longwell, Brian and Joanie Offord, Kathy Miles and Dana Smith for helping to make our Christmas party a warm, fun and tasty evening!

We're looking forward to a great year of beekeeping, club activities and educational programs for OBA members this year. If you haven't paid your dues, NOW is the time! It's the means by which we're able to bring you a meeting space, educational programs, a club apiary and so much more!

On a local note, on December 16th the Thurston County Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a resolution amending the Thurston County Pest and Vegetation Management Policy to include prohibiting the use of neonicotinoid insecticides on county owned or managed property. Work continues on a memorandum of understanding that will unite county cities and landholders to extend the ban to their managed lands.

The Washington State Honeybee Work Group final report is available and has been sent to the state legislature for action. You can read the report in its entirety here:

<http://wasba.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/FINAL-Honey-Bee-Wk-Group-Report.pdf>

The Department of Agriculture has also announced a Pollinator Protection Plan will be developed and Senator Honeyford has pre-filed SB 5017 for the coming session, relating to the definition of "farmer" and in alignment with the Honeybee Work Group's recommendations. Mark Emrich and I also sat in on a meeting with

the Washington State Department of Transportation to discuss their plans for developing more natural forage areas for bees and other pollinators along roadway corridors, etc. Stay tuned for more information.

Your OBA officers met last week to discuss planning and other items for the year. Paul Longwell is doing fabulous work on our library and materials. Jim Rieck is gearing up the mentorship program for a new season of beekeeping, we're readying a "new" location for storage of our equipment and working on a supplier for bee packages for club members to order. Some fabulous speakers and topics are lined up for this year and Bert Lewis and his team are working on the club apiary and expanding the hands-on educational opportunities for members there. We're also planning more youth programming. If there's something you'd like to see the club participate in, or a speaker that would be informative to our membership, please let us know.

Looking forward to a fantastic year,

Laurie

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: Jason Long, WSU, speaking on cold winter storage.

February: Megan Taylor, WSU

March: Tim Lawrence, WSU

April: Package Introduction

May: Preventing Swarms and Splits

June: Pests and Treatments

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.