

February 2015

OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS



REPORTS, NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

March Program

Tim Lawrence, Ph.D., WSU
more up-dated information
from his current research

President's Message

As we continue moving rapidly toward the official launch of spring, it's the perfect time to think "bee" and get your bees ordered, hardware cleaned and prepared, and take inventory of what you might need in the coming season. We will be conducting bee package ordering prior to the start of our meeting on the 9th and taking your nuc reservation forms as well. Packages are 3lbs with a queen, \$100, Carniolan or Italian and payment is due at ordering. Checks should be made payable to Charles Schaffer and please date April 10th as the checks will not be cashed until the bees arrive. The order forms can be found on our OBA website or there will be forms available at the meeting. Please contact me at LMPCarl@gmail.com if you're not able to make the meeting and still would like to order a package of bees.

If you haven't registered your hives please do. You can print a form off the website <http://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/Apiary/docs/ApiaryRegistrationForm.pdf> and we will also have some at the meeting. It is a nominal charge, the funds are specified to be used for beekeeping/beekeepers and in order to take advantage of any tax exemptions for beekeepers you must be registered. Additionally, the information gathered via hive registration can be used to map hives so pesticide applicators can be informed and will also better represent the actual number of beekeepers in the state.

Dr. Tim Lawrence will be speaking for our Monday evening program. Tim has extensive beekeeping and research experience and will be providing our group with some great information so you won't want to miss it.

We've been invited to participate in the student Green Congress to be held at The Evergreen State College on March 20th. This event is for kids aged 10-14 and our little honeybee-focused workshop begins at 12:15. It would be great to have a few people help with this project and please contact me if interested. The Congress lead talked about a honey tasting for

the kids as part of it, so if you've got some non-wildflower honey that the kids can taste and discuss the differences and are willing to provide a small jar, it would be much appreciated.

And, speaking of honey, the organizer at the Tenino Farmers Market is looking for local honey to sell at the market. The beekeeper would not need to be present; he's looking more for a "wholesale" sale to the market and then he would man the table to actually sell the honey. This could be something that multiple beekeepers could participate in, and the week "your" honey was featured, you would also be welcome to attend to speak to folks at the market about your honey and bees. If you're interested, I can provide the contact information.

And, it's that time of year again. Officer elections. We'll be talking more about it at the meeting, but if you've a burning desire to to serve the membership as an officer we'd love to hear from you. We'll also be surveying membership to compile overwinter colony loss information (if you're not going to be at the meeting, please email it. Total hives you have and total lost.) And, we'll also be seeking the membership's input on having summer meetings again this year.

As always, if there's a speaker or program you'd like to see, please let us know.

Hope to see some of you at the Honeybee Legislative Day at the Capitol on Thursday, the 5th!

Happy almost-spring,

Laurie

Secretary's Report

Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting Feb 9, 2015

Call to order at 7:03 p.m.

Old Business

January minutes were approved as written. January Treasurers report was also approved as reported.

New attendees were introduced as Ronald Haggstad, Sophie, and Vicky. Big welcome to all!

New business

President Laurie Pyne reported on the bee package opportunities and information for this spring. We will have a new process and supplier for bee packages and will be working with Lewis County. Packages will be \$100 for a 3 lb. package with a queen. Harvard Robbins will reserve nucs for members for \$95 each. A big thank you to Renzy Davenport for the research on our bee supplier this year! Ordering will conclude at the March 2015 meeting. Talk to Laurie Pyne or Mechele Linehan if you have special circumstances.

There will be a Honey Bee Legislation day on March 5th. Tim Hiatt will bring a hive to show. Everyone is encouraged to attend between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m on the Capitol steps. Come and help to raise awareness of environmental impact on our honeybees and how everyone can help.

Senate Bill 5017 or beekeeping as agriculture will provide tax benefits and level the playing field with out of state beekeepers.

House Bill 1654 will had its first hearing on February second. Several re-writes were requested. The intent of the bill is to help increase forage and reduce noxious weeds.

Refer to the Washington State Legislation website for updates.

There is a recommendation through the Environmental Protection Agency to approve oxalic acid to control varroa mites. Enter comments online by March 6th to support change.

Laurie encouraged everyone to register their hives and provided forms for members to use. 1-5 hives costs \$5. Also, Dana Smith says that the Washington Department of Transportation has records of hive locations through the registration reducing the number of hives accidentally sprayed with chemicals. The money spent for hive registration is set aside for beekeeping studies. So, turn them in by April 1st!!!

Copies of Honeybee Disease and Pests from the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists were available for \$12.00. Thank you to Bob Smith for attending a conference in Canada and getting us the scoop on this publication!

Mark Emrich and Laurie Pyne met with WSU rep regarding their proposed creation of a honeybee research/study building and facility. Stay tuned for more information.

If you missed the January meeting Allison Halpern shared seed packets and literature from TC Noxious Weeds Control. She brought us more seeds! Be sure to help yourself during our break.

Chair reports

Jim Rieck encouraged members to volunteer as mentors. The benefit of being a member is having access to a mentor! Now is a good time to sign up to get a mentor too. You can find out what you will need to get started with you bees this spring. Be sure and see Jim during the break if you need a mentor or would like to be one!

Paul Longwell asked that members please, please return books in a timely manner. There are six new titles in our collection. One is about the pollination of mason bees and the other is Rooftop Beekeeper.

Renzy Davenport shared burlap for our smokers.

Dana Smith has membership cards if you've paid your dues.

South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust would love to have beekeepers at their meeting on March 6th at 5:30 p.m. Their address is South Union Grange at 10030 Tilley Rd S Olympia.

Glen Buschmann ran into Ken's wife. Ken has a badly broken leg and needs help with his hives!

Program

Megan Taylor from WSU on genetic diversity of U.S. and European Honeybee populations.

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.

August: TBA

February: Megan Taylor, WSU speaking on Old World Bee Genetics

September: Time to renew membership.

March: Tim Lawrence, WSU

October: TBA

April: Package Introduction

November: TBA

May: Preventing Swarms and Splits

December: Christmas Party

June: Pests and Treatments

July: TBA

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.