



THE BEELINE

Olympia Beekeeper's Association Newsletter
January 2011

Next Meeting: Roosevelt Elementary School 1417 San Francisco Ave. NE
Monday January 10, 2011
Beginning Beekeeping Class at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting follows at 7:00p.m.
Program Topic: The Warre' Hive

December Holiday Potluck and Gift Exchange – our annual event was a great success, despite the last minute change in location. Kudos to the OBA leadership for their rapid response and crisis management! I don't think there were many leftovers!

Predictions for 2011 – It's a new year and many of us are beginning to think about our bees and what to expect for the coming year. According to the 'Old Farmer's Almanac', "Winter temperatures will be slightly above normal, on average, with slightly below-normal precipitation but above-normal snowfall in most places. The coldest periods will occur in mid-December and mid- to late February, with the snowiest periods in mid-December and late February. April and May will be cooler and drier than normal. Summer will be drier than normal, with below-normal temperatures, on average, in Washington and above-normal temperatures in Oregon and California. The hottest periods will occur in late July and early August. September and October will be slightly drier than normal, with near-normal temperatures." Forewarned is fore-armed!

Community Opportunities – I receive email inquiries frequently from local citizens wanting to find local honey, beeswax, and pollen. I generally steer them in directions known to me. However, it would be great to have a list of honey and non-honey resources within our organization that would be willing to entertain such inquiries. Drop me an email if you are interested in being added to a 'vendors list' I will gladly either refer them to you, or provide you with their contact information. Thanks!

- OBA member Ernie Schmidt passed this along:

Dear Beesource Member,

I am taking the unusual step of emailing the members of Beesource forums because I need to ask for your help on an important project.

As you may be aware, Christopher Stowell, a Boy Scout and 14 year old beekeeper from Oklahoma, recently led a campaign to reinstate the Beekeeping Merit Badge. BSA recently announced its response to Christopher's request, and the news is mostly good. While BSA is not agreeing to reinstate the Beekeeping Merit Badge, it is agreeing to incorporate beekeeping activities into several different existing merit badges. Emphasis of the importance of bees and beekeeping will be added to or enhanced in eight existing merit badge pamphlets: Bird Study, Forestry, Gardening, Nature, Plant Science, Pulp and Paper, Environmental Science, and Insect Study. All of this will be accomplished by the end of 2015. One of those badges, Environmental Science, is needed for a scout to attain Eagle rank. Although the BSA is not reinstating a merit badge specific to beekeeping, it is making changes that provide opportunities to expose over 100,000 boys a year to the joys of beekeeping.

BSA is considering adding beekeeping projects, such as working with a colony or harvesting honey, to one or more of those merit badges so that interested scouts can earn advancement recognition for their beekeeping activities.

HOWEVER WE AS BEEKEEPERS NEED TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT!

BSA does not want to add activities to the merit badges unless it is sure that beekeepers will be there to teach the scouts. The beekeeping community needs to demonstrate that it will provide mentors to boys who want to learn about beekeeping.

RIGHT NOW, there are three things that you can do to help.

First, BSA has invited all associations and experts in the beekeeping community who are interested in helping with this project to e-mail us at merit.badge@scouting.org. Please put "bees" in the subject line.

Second, if you are interested in serving as a merit badge counselor, contact your BSA local council to initiate the process. <http://www.scouting.org/localcouncillocator.aspx>

Finally, if you are willing to be a mentor, please contact BSA directly and let them know you are willing to be a mentor. BSA has requested that interested beekeepers e-mail them at: merit.badge@scouting.org and please put "Honey Bees" in the heading. Just write a few words letting them know that you are willing to act as a mentor, and please give BSA a way to contact you and let them know what states and counties you are willing to mentor in.

If you have any ideas about this project, feel free to post them in the forum on Beesource that is dedicated to the Beekeeping Merit Badge Project (<http://beesource.com/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=284>). If you have contacted BSA, please leave a post on Beesource. Showing your support helps to draw attention to this project and helps to get other people to act.

Thanks for your support,

Barry Birkey
Beesource.com

- Lakes High School in Lakewood is sponsoring a science fair and they are looking for interested adults to serve as judges. In-depth knowledge of science is not required, just the ability to listen and ask questions. The science fair is being held on January 13th from 5:00-7:00 pm. If interested, please let me know and I'll provide driving directions and more details! Call me at (360) 888-3968, or drop me a note at olympiabeekeepers@hotmail.com.

News, Trivia, and Facts – follow the links to read!

- Using genetics to fight the mite:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_9306000/9306572.stm
- Winter bees live longer than summer bees!
- [Bees show off the perfect landing](#)
- Apitherapy is the medicinal use of honey or other bee products. Although this might seem like a hippie new-age idea, there are threads of apitherapy in many traditions, including Chinese texts 2,000 years old and in the writings of Hippocrates. The products used in apitherapy include honey, pollen, propolis, royal jelly, beeswax, and the venom. These can be used to treat skin conditions, viral infections, rheumatological conditions, cardiovascular and pulmonary conditions, and many other situations.
- Raw honey is a source of simple carbohydrates. Its composition on average is 17.1 percent water, 82.4 percent total carbohydrate and 0.5 percent proteins, amino acids, vitamins and minerals. The average carbohydrate content is mainly fructose (38.5 percent) and glucose (31 percent). The remaining 12.9 percent of carbohydrates is made up of maltose, sucrose and other sugars.

- [Bees Reveal Nature-Nurture Secrets: Extensive Molecular Differences in Brains of Workers and Queen](#)
- Bee Viruses Spread via Flower Pollen - <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/12/101229-bees-collapse-viruses-animals-science/>
- Here's a link to Heifer International to which we have donated beehives recently - <http://www.heifer.org/>

Beekeeping Calendar for January – ‘Make or order spare hives and other equipment required for the coming season. See that hive entrances are kept clear of dead bees. Note the amount of bee loss in your apiary note book. Order queens and package bees now to avoid the last minute rush.’ Courtesy of neighbors in the Northwest District Beekeeper’s Association in Snohomish

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To submit contributions or ideas
Email: OlympiaBeekeepers@hotmail.com
Call 360-888-3968

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