

January 2014

OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR ALL OLYMPIA AREA BEEKEEPERS

Next meeting and classes February 10th. Reminder - nomination of Officers for the new year. See you there!

February 10, 2014 Program:

Our speaker will be Josh Vincent from “Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides”. He will provide an overview of common pesticides and their unintended environmental impacts; including how they are contributing to declining bee health. He will also offer strategies for protecting bees by avoiding pesticides through general alternative methods of pest management.

President's Message

Hi everyone,

On the pesticide awareness side of the beekeeping equation, there are numerous "cases" that are showing up in inboxes everywhere. An issue close to home, and one that affects not only the health of Washington waters but the chain of life dependent on it, including bees, is the current proposed Imidacloprid pesticide spray to *Zostera japonica* (eelgrass) in Wallapa Bay/Grays Harbor. Imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid pesticide that is already banned in Europe and in some states could provoke significant collateral damage if used as planned. All of this stems from a request from the shellfish industry, already being hit with toxicity issues related to human consumption of shellfish. The Sierra Club and the Coalition to Protect Puget Sound Habitat is working on these issues. While it's occurring currently in the Grays Harbor area, there is the potential for expansion and spraying in Puget Sound. There is an upcoming public meeting on February 1 in South Bend during which folks can learn more about this proposal and another that recommends the use of Imidacloprid to control burrowing shrimp that harm commercial oyster beds. Here are links for more information on both issues:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/eelgrass.html>

<http://198.238.211.77:8004/programs/wq/pesticides/imidacloprid/index.html>

Please take a moment to read a bit and lend your voice to the comments. It all matters to the health and well-being of the life that we share with the planet, and we're all responsible in acting to preserve and protect it.

It's also that time of year again to elect club officers. Heartfelt and abundant thanks to each of OBA's Board Members and Chairpeople that have generously given of their time, talents and energy to support the mission of the club. While we are seeking

nominations to fill upcoming vacancies in the Vice President and Secretary roles, as well as Program Chairmen and Librarian, all positions are open for re-election. Our Treasurer, President, Membership and Mentor chair have offered to continue on in their respective roles; however, any club member can be nominated for any office. Serving as a Board Member or Chairperson is an excellent way to give back to the club and I encourage folks to participate. It does not matter how long you've been a member or a beekeeper! Elections are traditionally held at the March meeting. Please e-mail me with any questions or nominations: LMPCarl@gmail.com

Spring is coming and there will be a club package order, so stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Laurie

Treasurer's Report: Checking **\$3,135.78**

Savings \$5,130.24

Cash on hand \$18.04

Minutes
Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting
January 13, 2014

New Members

Approximately seven new members introduced themselves.

Old Business

The minutes and Treasurer's report from the December meeting were approved.

The Evergreen State College has confirmed Lecture Hall #1 for the OBA's screening of the film *More Than Honey* on **March 8 at 7:30pm**. Filmmaker Markus Imhoof will skype in for a Q & A session following. The OBA would like the student beekeeping group at the Evergreen State College to be involved with this event as an opportunity to showcase beekeeping to the community as well as to educate the public on what they can do to help bees.

If there are any club members who are proficient with Adobe Photoshop and would like to volunteer to create posters for this event, please see Laurie.

There will be a bee package order this year for club members. Package prices and order date details are still being worked out and further information is forthcoming. You will need to be a member to place an order for bees and queens through the Club. If you have not yet paid your membership dues, please do so prior to the package order date.

Laurie attended the Thurston County Fair Board meeting last week. This year the OBA's booth at the Thurston County Fair will include a bee friendly garden space as well as demonstration hives set up to show the different types of hives. Upon approval of the Department of Health, the club will host a 'People's Choice' honey tasting contest during the fair, which is scheduled for July 30 – August 3, 2014.

Thank you to Mark Emrich, who has offered to give the Club's observation hive a 'facelift'.

Dance group Samba OlyWa has chosen bees as the species they will represent for this year's Procession of the Species. The group would like more education on bees before they represent them at the parade.

One of the Club's goals for this year is to establish a club apiary. If you know of someone who may have a piece of land or access to a public space for this purpose, please contact Laurie.

The Club will fine tune its swarm list this year and may consider obtaining a cell phone for this purpose. More information is forthcoming.

New Business

The Olympia Federal Bank offers their windows as a display place for nonprofit organizations and Laurie has applied for the Club to place a display in one of their windows to raise awareness of bees and provide information to the public on the Club.

There are a few OBA sweatshirts and hats leftover for purchase.

Update from Mark Emrich, WBSA President:

The Washington State Honeybee Working Group went to the legislature last year on four bills, one of which was to relieve commercial beekeepers from the BNO tax as Beekeeping in Washington State is considered a service, not agriculture. The legislature allowed five years of relief from the tax and in the meantime, the Working Group will attempt to have beekeeping categorized as agricultural in the state of Washington. The legislature has created a beekeeping working group which will meet throughout the year.

Chair reports

Bob Smith, Education Chair:

To provide clarification, the Journeyman and Apprentice classes meet at the same time. The Journeymen students meet in the small gymnasium, and Apprentice students in the cafeteria at Chinook Middle School.

Bob distributed journeyman certificates to students who had completed the course.

Gail Booth will now be assisting Bob with the Apprentice class. There were 6 new apprentice students in tonight's class.

Jim Rieck, Mentorship Chair:

Jim outlined the different groups of club members who are beginner beekeepers or are interested in becoming beekeepers and would like a mentor. He then delineated the different levels of mentoring that may be provided. Jim has created profiles to match potential mentors and mentees, and would like those who are interested in becoming mentors to complete a profile sign up form for matching.

Program:

Dana Smith described the new OBA website.

Mark Emrich explained his hive marking system.

Pat and Mary Sturgill presented a demonstration of Kenyan Top-Bar Hive construction.



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



January Program Recap:

Check the webpage for a powerpoint on Top Bar Hive Construction.



Grab Your Camera... Bumble Bee Watch is Here!

January 22, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

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Grab Your Camera...Bumble Bee Watch is Here!

**New web site is launched to help
identify and protect bumble
bees**

PORTLAND, Ore—A new web
site launched today allows people
to be directly involved in
protecting bumble bees
throughout North America.
BumbleBeeWatch.org enables
people to connect with experts
and other enthusiasts, and help
build a comprehensive picture of

where bumble bees are thriving
and where they need help.

Furry, hardworking bumble bees
are essential to wildlands,
gardens, and farms, helping to
deliver food security for both
people and wildlife alike.
Alarmingly, many recent reports
suggest that we may be losing
their familiar buzz from our
summer landscapes due to habitat
loss, insecticide use, disease, and
climate change. More information
is needed to determine their
conservation status, and that
process demands a continent-wide
collaborative effort.

“We have an amazing community
of citizen scientists who have
helped us follow a handful of bee
species,” said Rich Hatfield, the
Xerces Society conservation
biologist who coordinated
creation of Bumble Bee Watch.
“Hopefully this new web site will
generate greater awareness and
allow us to draw more people into
this community.”

A smartphone or simple digital
camera (and a computer) is all
that’s needed to start exploring
BumbleBeeWatch.org. In addition
to uploading photos of bumble
bees, individuals can identify the
bumble bees, learn about their
ecology, and connect with bumble
bee experts and other citizen
scientists engaged in pollinator
conservation.

The information gathered will
help locate rare or endangered
populations, as well as track
species whose status is less well
known. “Bumble Bee Watch will
greatly benefit our at-risk
pollinator conservation program,”
said Sheila Colla, project leader
for Wildlife Preservation
Canada’s At-Risk Pollinator
Project, a partner in Bumble Bee
Watch. “By locating rare bumble
bee populations and collecting
information on their ecological
requirements, citizen scientists
can help conserve these important
insects.”

Bumble Bee Watch is a
partnership between the Xerces
Society, Wildlife Preservation
Canada, the University of Ottawa,
the Montreal Insectarium, the
Natural History Museum in
London, and BeeSpotter.

“Bumble Bee Watch unites
scientists and conservation
organizations in Canada and the
United States in the study and
protection of North America’s
bumble bees,” said Scott Black,
executive director of the Xerces
Society. “We are grateful for the
hard work and commitment that
our partners have made. This web
site will transform the way
bumble bees are viewed and
protected.”

Future Program Previews:

Morris Ostrofsky presenting: *The Miller Method-Graft Free Queen Rearing*

Many beekeepers reach a point in their beekeeping experience where they are comfortable with the basics and are seeking a new challenge. Raising queens is one however for many beekeepers the idea of grafting to produce queens is intimidating. This presentation is to share one graft-free queen rearing techniques explaining how a few high quality queens can be reared without special equipment or tools by a beekeeper.

Sue Cobey on : "The Importation of Honey Bee Germplasm, and the Importance of Diversity"

This talk will look at the historical introduction of honey bees into the US, genetic bottlenecks and the importance of genetic diversity to honey bee fitness . A review the WSU cooperative industry & University project to import honey bee germplasm and incorporate this into US breeding stocks will also be reviewed. Aspects of this include the re-introduction of the subspecies *Apis mellifera caucasica*, known for its use of propolis a self medication against pathogens, and the establishment of the world's first Germplasm Repository for honey bees.

Bio Brief:

Susan Cobey, an acknowledged world expert in the field of honey bee breeding, maintains the New World Carniolan Closed Population Breeding Program, now in its 32rd generation. She currently operates Honey Bee Insemination Service and holds a 50% appointment at Washington State University. A major focus is an industry and University collaborative effort to enhance domestic U.S. honey bee breeding stocks through the incorporation of germplasm collected from Old World European honey bees. This project includes the establishment of the world's first germplasm repository at WSU. She continues to offer classes in queen rearing and instrumental insemination to promote bee breeding techniques. Her background is both commercial and academic, having worked for several bee research labs, including University of CA, Davis, The Ohio State University, and the USDA Honey Bee Lab., Baton Rouge, as well as in commercial queen production in FL. and CA. and operated a queen production business, Vaca Valley Apiaries, in northern California.



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: Josh Vincent from NWCAP on pesticides (Nomination of Officers)

March: Sue Cobey, WSU, cryogenic germplasm collection. (Order bees. Elect officers.)

April: Morris Ostrofsky on "Backyard Queen Rearing" (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 is are refreshments available.