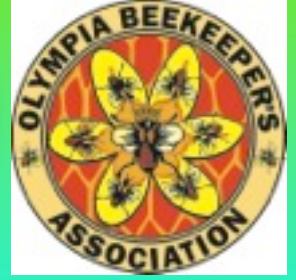


June 2014

# OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



## NEWS AND INTEREST FROM THE JUNE 9, 2014 MEETING

### Secretary and Treasurer Report, President's Message, Up-coming Program

Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting  
June 9, 2014

all to order at 7:07 p.m.  
Beginning Beekeepers class were not yet present

### Old Business

The minutes and Treasurer's Report from April meeting were read and approved.  
New members were recognized and introduced.

P.S. I Love You – Will be held on Saturday June 14 at Percival Landing. New outreach materials are on the way to use at the event. Laurie has the sign up and is looking for additional help.

Next two Olympia Beekeeper Meetings will be held at the Farm Bureau building at 975 Carpenter Road. Be sure and turn toward the freeway NOT the fairgrounds! The classes and general meeting will be held at their usual times.

### New business

Introduction of new members.

Jim Reick still has the club apiary equipment but, it will have a permanent home soon!

Pollinator Week is next week!!

A Certificate sent to Rachael Webber vial U.S. Mail was returned. Anyone who knows her whereabouts is encouraged to contact Bob Smith.

### Chair Reports

**Rich Kalman** reported on the club's apiary. A hive inspection demonstration for new beekeepers will be held on June 21 at 1:00 p.m. at the Kiwanis gardens. They are located at 3839 11<sup>th</sup> ave. NW in Olympia.

Rich also would like the general membership to provide input for naming our hives. Choices will be posted on the club's website and will include famous beekeepers such as Aristotle and Sanchons as well as others.

**Jim Reick** reported that all mentees now have mentors. We need more mentors in Olympia.

**Mark Emrich** presented the newly refurbished demonstration hive to be used at the fair booths this year. It will hold western or deep comb.

Mark encouraged members to check out other Beekeeping Association's web sites for educational opportunities.

Mark spent eight hours with the Secretary of State's office becoming more informed about non-profit responsibilities. Clubs must update bylaws etc.

On June 29<sup>th</sup> he will be traveling to Ellensburg Washington for the Washington State Beekeepers quarterly board and business meetings.

The Washington State Beekeepers Association is working on insurance for all associated clubs. This proposed insurance will cover all outreach activities of statewide associations and will be for non-profits through Washington State Insurance.

**Renzy Davenport** passed out certificates for Apprentice Beekeepers. Congratulations to John Wiley, Joseph Wiley, Jeff Kohman and Bill Fishburn.

Renzy reported that a group of beekeepers from Lewis County are going to South America. They will be teaching beekeeping to 500 students so that those students can earn money to pay higher education.

**Gail Booth** is having difficulty contacting the volunteers on the swarm list! She asked that people please provide a time of availability. Her number is 360-491-4968

**Laurie Pyne** reported that the studies done by Tim Lawrence and Steve are not complete so, we have no results yet.

**Dana Smith** reminded members that there will be meetings in July and August this year. We now have 196 members.

**Break Time** was spent voting for Beekeeper of the year and the Mark Savage Award for 2014. Raffle purchasers also competed for insulated hive provided by Dave Hudson.

## **Program**

David Bruun presented on record keeping using bee-tracker.com. Please visit his site, he would like feedback on the drop down menus.

### Treasury Report.

Savings \$5131.04  
Checking \$3165.17

## President's Message

A lot has happened in the beekeeping community since we last met. First: a reminder that we are conducting meetings in July and August at the Washington Farm Bureau Building at 975 Carpenter Road, Olympia. Meeting and class times remain the same, however, **for the next meeting, the Apprentice and Journeyman's class will be conducted together** for a special program/presentation by Bob Smith from 6-7:00 (regular class time). Bob will be covering all things "honey", including discussing and demonstrating how that wonderful golden elixir is evaluated and judged. **Any club member is welcome to attend and participate!** Bring your own honey for testing, if you'd like, and your questions. Bob, our Educational Chair is a treasure trove of information with many years of beekeeping experience to share. And, speaking of treasure troves of information, you don't want to miss our program on the 14th, presented by Harvard Robbins. Harvard will be addressing all sorts of beekeeping issues and "tales from the hive" from his massive body of experience.

Bees nationally are getting more media attention. Katie Couric featured a segment on honeybees on her show last week and asked very good questions. You can catch it here: <http://katiecouric.com/videos/the-plight-of-the-honey-bee/> Also in the news were more bee die-offs in Portland <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/tech/science/environment/2014/06/24/mass-bee-die-offs-continuing-oregon/11329169/> and an editorial in the Olympian on why neonicotinoids should be banned: <http://www.theolympian.com/>

[2014/07/01/3206933/for-bees-sake-state-should-ban.html](http://2014/07/01/3206933/for-bees-sake-state-should-ban.html)

Your OBA Board and Chairpersons had a very productive meeting several weeks ago. Discussed were special fall programming, new library programming, new equipment storage and check-out protocol, the club apiary, and mentorship program. We're also going to be offering website business ads in the very near future.

It's getting close to time for the Thurston County Fair and this year, the bee booth is going to be *spectacular*. Club member, librarian and Master Gardener Paul Longwell is the driving force behind the gorgeous pollinator garden adjacent to the bee house, replete with sample Langstroth, Top Bar and Warre hives. The booth itself will feature a native pollinator display and information (thanks to Glen Buschman, our non-apids club expert), our gorgeous new observation hive and new OBA club educational and outreach materials. Please make sure you sign up to help with the fair, and don't be deterred if you are a new beekeeper. It's a great opportunity to talk bees, learn something new and share the club's mission. It's also a lot of fun, and your admission is provided if you sign up to work a shift in the booth. The club also sponsors and assembles three bee-themed baskets each year, as prizes for the honey baking contest. They're almost ready to go, and I am looking for three one or two pint jars of honey from club members to include in these baskets. It's a great opportunity to have your label and product visible

to a wider audience. Please e-mail me at [LMPCarl@gmail.com](mailto:LMPCarl@gmail.com) if you can provide a jar to the meeting on the 14th.

More cities are joining the neonicotinoid-banning platform, with Spokane the most recent to pass an ordinance prohibiting the use of this class of pesticides on city property last month. Their urban and regional planning office contacted me for a letter that outlined what the Olympia Beekeepers had done on the neonicotinoid front in support of their initiative, which I was happy to provide. Mark Emrich, Graeme Sackrison, John O'Brien and myself sat in on a meeting with Thurston County Commissioner Sandra Romero again last week to discuss honeybees and do some planning on initiatives for Thurston County. Commissioner Romero also invited state association president Mark Emrich out on her recent "Coffee with the Commissioner" local chats to highlight the issues facing bees. The response was excellent at all stops, which seems to indicate people are interested in good, reliable information. Working with Thurston County, we hope to advance initiatives, action and provide excellent information to the communities we live, work and beekeep in. We are scheduled for monthly meetings with the Commissioner through the end of the year to keep the momentum going.

Lastly, the Olympia Beekeepers Association is your club and your resource. Your club officers are endeavoring to grow OBA's educational opportunities, increase programming and provide benefits to all club members. If there is something you'd like to see, a program or project of interest, or the developing of other resources, we'd love to hear about it. Please feel free to e-mail me with your suggestions.

And thanks to Glen Guschman, Paul Longwell, Thomas and Andrea Broyles, Maren Anderson, Raechell Cleverdon, Dixon Fellows, Duane McBride and Rich Kalman for making our newly 'tented' OBA booth a smashing success at the PS I Love You Fest.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the "new" summer venue and hearing how everyone's beekeeping summer is going so far. Thanks to everyone that makes our club "go".

Laurie

**“For those who have not voted yet . . .”). The Doodle Poll will close on July 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Vote now to be counted in the Club Apiary Hive naming!!!!**

## **Bee families (WA) - Apidae, Megachilidae, Halictidae, Andrenidae, Colletidae,**

In North America are close to 4000 species of bees. Only a few -- honey bee and bumble bees -- have a queen or makes a hive. Many of the different bees nest in small tunnels built (dug) into the ground. Some bees are communal and semi-social nesters, and may share a nest entry, even share a few tasks; most are "solitary" bees. Most species of bee die long before their offspring mature into adults.

With most bees, every female is (potentially) fertile and lays eggs; each female finds a suitable site, builds an individual cell, provisions the cell with pollen and a bit of nectar, lays one egg in the cell, then starts a new cell. Her habits makes her "solitary".

APIDAE. All hive-making, wax making, honey making bees are Apidae, subfamily Apinae, including Honey and Bumble. Only this subfamily carries pollen on specialized hind legs in pollen baskets (corbicula); corbicula-bearing bees mix the gathered pollen with some nectar and press it into the baskets, ready to dispense soon after they enter the hive.

Bumblebees: BB hives are small, annual constructions of at most a few hundred bees; only new queens overwinter and in the spring start new colonies. Some species are very cold tolerant, emerge quite early, can warm selves with buzzing. Often the BB builds her hive in an old mouse nest that is underground or in dense mat of brush. First generation BB workers -- the ones raised by only the queen -- are in most species very small. Each succeeding generation is larger. The queen switches to just laying eggs once the first generation can forage. BB's make honey in small amounts -- a tablespoon or two -- to feed the colony through a few bad work days.

New queens and drones come after a few months; for most species this is the last generation of the year. In some species, workers may lay some or most of the drone, (non-fertile) eggs. Depending upon the species, new queens may help with nest duties for a while. Once new queens both mate and fatten up, they hibernate in small burrows -- hibernaculums. Supersedure happens in a few species, where a new queen instead continues a hive further into the season. But in most species, the old queen and the rest of the hive dies once new queens emerge.

There are 7 to 10 species of BB in SW Washington, and about 45 species -- some parasitic -- in N.A. Workers typically resemble small queens. Males can look similar or very different depending on the species; having more yellow fur is a frequent difference.

Stingless bees are a different tribe of sub-family Apinae, also a eusocial bee that builds hives and produces honey, They are native to the tropics, ~500 species worldwide, do not tolerate temperate (North American) conditions. They are not a "true" honeybee, (genus *Apis*, but they are the only native New World honey-making bee, with many species in Central and South America. They are small bees with smaller hives, are "stingless" because their sting is too small to be effective.

But they bite -- like ants. There has been domestication of some species - for the honey - in the tropics including Brazil.

Apidae also includes Orchid bees, Carpenter bees, Squash bees, Longhorn bees, and a mix of other solitary and colonial bees; also a large genus of cleptoparasitic "cuckoo" bees, (*Nomada*).

MEGACHILIDAE - Tunnel nesting / cavity nesting. Large heads, strong jaws for gathering building materials such as mud, (mason bees), leaves, (leafcutter bees), resin, (resin bees), plant wool, (carder bees). They collect pollen on their bellies. Great size variation, some as large as honey bees and many much smaller. Some aggregate nesters, but not hive makers. Most species produce one generation a year and some species spend a full year as a larva in the cell, emerging as adults the second year.

The following three families are mostly all ground nesting bees. Some underground nests have complex networks of tunnels. All rely on a large abdominal gland - the Dufour's gland - for coating each nesting cell with a semi-waterproof to waterproof substance. The chemical properties and means of application are different for each family.

HALICTIDAE - Sweat bees - mostly very small, underground nesters, often metallically shiny, often semi-social - may share a tunnel entrance and maybe some nest work, but not a queen society. May have several generations in a year. Known to exploit cracks in concrete as start of nest tunnels. Drawn to salty moisture such as sweat, hence name. About 400 species in NA.

ANDRENIDAE - "Miner bees". Ground nesting in dirt tunnels, coats cells with fluid spread with a hind-end paddle. "Long-tongued". Can form large aggregations in the ground including in lawns, leading to some distressed calls from hyper-vigilant uninformed caretakers. Characteristically very fuzzy on the face, as well as very hairy hind legs, and still more hair under the front legs, all in the interest of pollen gathering. Typically a single generation each year. Excellent pollinators, very gentle and often considered "stingless". Many species in this family, (1500 in NA), including a number of cleptoparasitic ones.

COLLETIDAE - "Cellophane" or "Polyester" bees, about 100 species in NA. Ground nesting, coats interior chambers cells with several gland fluids, spread with short broad tongue. Fluid hardens into a waterproof "cellophane" bag, not part of the soil. Are solitary though can form large aggregations, including in cliffs and river banks. Single generation each year.

Also includes *Hylaeus* ("masked") bees, the only native bee in Hawaii -- 60 diverse species there, vs 12 ssp in all of NA.

## **BEE OR FLY??**

Some flies are Amazing for their mimicry of bees.

Known as syrphid flies, hover flies, or flower flies.

Flies have short stubby antennae, (bees have long segmented antennae).

Fly eyes typically extend all the way to the middle with no gap in between.

Many can hover in place.

They have no stinger, cannot sting and are not aggressive.

They also only have only one pair of wings, where as bees and wasps have two pair, but it is hard to see this on live specimens.

Adults eat pollen and nectar, sometimes are important pollinators. Larval food varies: some hover fly larvae feed on decaying vegetation, others eat insects such as aphids; the larvae do not depend upon pollen.

Invitation: To All who attend the OBA meetings:

Please consider presenting a short (about 5 minute) show-and-tell topic at the April 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 Rich to get on the agenda: [rich.beekeeper<@>gmail.com](mailto:rich.beekeeper@gmail.com)

---

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:**

**August:** Meeting at Farm Bureau

**February:**

**September:** Time to renew membership.

**March:**

**October:** TBA

**April:**

**November:** TBA

**May:**

**December:**TBA

**June:**

**July:** Meeting to be held at Farm Bureau Building, 975 Carpenter Rd. Program by Harvard Robbins.

**Monthly Meetings:** held the second Monday of each month.

**Place:** Chinook Middle School, 4301 6th Ave NE, Lacey, WA (July and August at Farm Bureau Bldsd.

**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.