

June 2015

# OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS



**REPORTS, NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

*July Program*

**Dr. Caron's Special Presentation**

## President's Message

We've plunged headfirst into the heat and dry of a Pacific Northwest summer and I don't think we can count on anything being "normal" with our bees this year. "Earlier than usual" seems to be the working mantra. Making sure your bees have a water source is critically important; they need the water to cool the hive. We'll have to see what happens to forage in August.

There is lots happening in the local bee world. The Panorama-hosted pollinator garden dedication and campaign launch was well-attended and beautifully set up by the wonderful folks at Panorama. We are very grateful to Joe DiSanto, president of Panorama and his team that provided the tent and seating, PA system and wonderfully delicious and elegant refreshments. We were honored by the presence of so many fabulous guests and smiling faces that turned out for the evening program. Senator Karen Fraser helped with the Nikki McClure sign "big reveal" as did Thurston County Commissioner Sandra Romero. WA State Beekeepers Association (WSBA) president Mark Emrich presented recognition certificates to the Nisqually Land Trust, the cities of Olympia and Tumwater, Lott Clean Water Alliance and to Patrick Soderberg, of Thurston County's pesticide arm in recognition of their commitment to help protect pollinators. Sally Vogel, of Panorama's Green Team relayed the story of the pollinator garden's genesis and purpose and then Green Team members dedicated the garden with a symbolic dousing of watering cans filled with organic fertilizer. I was honored to be able to address the group about the importance of our honey bees, the problems they (and we) are facing and how each of us can do something to act in the protection and conservation of not only bees, but all the pollinators currently facing the same threats and fate. It was a great kickoff and many thanks to Tricia Shaw, Joanie Offord, Dixon Fellows (who brought the observation hive), Duane McBride, Becky Emrich and Paul and Penny Longwell for their help with set-up, manning the tables and for making it such a successful event. It was also fabulous to see

other OBA beekeepers in the crowd. Your presence was much appreciated! For anyone who wants a Nikki McClure "These Plants Feed Bees" sign, we will have them available at the next meeting. If you are a business owner and you want to carry them, please contact me at [LMPCarl@gmail.com](mailto:LMPCarl@gmail.com).

Another important bit of news is that the Senate Bill 6057 was signed by Governor Inslee on July 1st. Tim Hiatt, a commercial beekeeper on the eastern side of WA state and WSBA legislative committee member who's been working on beekeeping leg issues, sent notice of the signature on July 2nd. SB 6057 was not a beekeeping bill, although Part XI was, basically, our SB 5017 which asked that beekeepers be recognized as agriculture and therefore, eligible for the same tax exemptions as other state agriculture pursuits. We'll have more information on how this reads for beekeepers but in the meantime, you can find the body of the entire bill here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=6057&year=2015>

And, it's Thurston County Fair Time!! Can't even believe we're talking about the fair, but here we are. Paul Longwell is chairing the Fair activities and booth this year. He'll have the sign up sheet to work the bee booth at the meeting in July. Spending a few hours at the bee booth (and the fair!) is a great way to meet people, introduce them to the amazing world of bees and beekeeping and to provide them information. The pollinator garden this year (thanks to Paul and Master Gardener Penny Longwell) is on track to exceed the greatness they achieved last year, if that's even possible! Don't be shy about helping if you're new to beekeeping; the first time I worked the fair I knew very little and walked away with a lot of information from the folks I was working with and had some fun in the process.

Thanks, also, to Mechele Linehan and Duane McBride for presenting bees to the kids at the Hands On Children's Museum in Olympia. We had a fun afternoon, albeit a hot one, interacting with kids and their parents and then doing a program for Miss Adrienne's summer camp class. Lots of fun for all including the part where they got to poke their fingers in a frame of honey and taste the magic. Mechele and Duane also represented the OBA at the Tumwater Farmers Market Kids Day along with the lovely ladies from Starry Lane Apiary.

Don't forget we're meeting at the **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd** for our July and August meeting. Address is: 1601 North St. SE, Olympia. There will be beekeeping class prior to the meeting at 6:00, as usual.

And, we've got a great speaker for our July meeting. **Dr. Dewey Caron**, Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, Univ of Delaware, & Affiliate Professor, Dept Horticulture Oregon state University. He has spent 45+ years teaching, doing bee extension and bee research at Cornell (1967-70), University of MD (1970-1981) and University of DE (1981-2009). He works with Oregon State Extension on bee issues and is Master Beekeeper advisor to the Eastern Apicultural Society. He is the author of "Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping" and you are not going to want to miss it.

See you at the July meeting.

Laurie

## Secretary's Report

Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting  
June 8, 2015  
Call to order at 7:06 p.m.

### Old Business

Welcome new beekeepers!  
No corrections to May's minutes were offered and they were accepted as written.

Treasurer's report:

2,410.78 in checking

6,462.93 in savings

Next month we will meet at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd located at 1601 North Street SE in Olympia.

Please RSVP for the launch of the Thurston County Pollinator Partnership at the Panorama Garden Space. There will be an unveiling of the signs designed by Nikki McClure.

### Old Business

Nominations were made for the Mark Savage and Beekeeper of the Year awards from the floor. Roy Manicke for the airport project and Laurie Pyne for her continued superb leadership were nominated for the Beekeeper of the Year award. Jack Robertson, Bob Smith, Gail Booth and Mark Emrich were nominated for the Mark Savage award.

Ballots will be available for voting at July's meeting. Additional nominations can be made that evening.

Laurie thanked Michele Linehan, Pam Binder and Duane McBride for their participation in the STEAM event at East Olympia Elementary School. There were numerous activities including face painting and little bees to take home!

Our airport project sign is installed! The bees there are doing well. Each hive has 1 deep and 2

mediums. Maybe next year we'll add wild flowers for forage.

### New Business

Laurie Pyne keeps getting requests for new queens and asked for suggestions. Proffered suggestions included Beeline and Laurie Miller in Roy.

It has been suggested that we add children's bee suits of various sizes to our club equipment. Ideally kids could exchange them when they are outgrown so that others could use them. Our goal is to get kids involved! If you've got a suit to donate, let Mechele know and she can add to the equipment inventory list

Congratulations to Ernie Schmidt who was published in the American Bee Journal!!

Sue Cobey will present a queen rearing class in Puyallup on June 25<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Pierce Beekeepers Association.

### Chair reports

**Bob Smith** presented a Journeyman certificate to Dixon Fellows and Ron Scholzen. Apprentice Certifications went to Roger Silitz, Jim Hammond, Roseann Harvits, Todd Davidson, Pete Houseman, Jessica Houseman, and Debby and Steve Musser.

**Duane, membership report:** We have 245 members.

**Mark Emrich, WSBA president reported** that the Washington State Beekeepers Association has submitted insurance billing that will cover participating clubs needs.

He invited everyone to help craft the National MP3 Program (Multiple Pollinators Protection Program). It will be administered through the State Department of Agriculture and will be strictly for pollinators. We will be joining with several states to formulate plans and will be sharing in the work of submitting the plan.

Mark touched on the state education plans. We are working on finding Journeyman who can teach. By July 1 we plan to go paperless with access to our entire curriculum online. This will be helpful to rural beekeepers who do not have access to a club or instructors.

Mark encouraged new beekeepers to get mentors!

Mark repeated that this is the last year he will be president of the WSBA. He will resign in October. The organization will be looking in the Olympia area for a leader who will be close to the capital and can attend legislative hearing with short notice.

**David Bruun, Program Chair:** Our Christmas Party will include a hive of the year! Bob will do a honey judging also.

**Gail Booth, Swarm Report**L there have been 35 swarm calls since the May meeting. We need more people to call for capturing Please e-mail Gail at [gail30@msn.com](mailto:gail30@msn.com). Please include when you are available, and how high up you will go to get a swarm and the locations where you will travel. Please remember to take your name off of the list if you are no longer available.

## **Break**

**Program** Jacqueline Freeman: beekeeper, biodynamic farmer who wrote the book [Song of Increase](#).

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](mailto:Davidbruun98@hotmail.com))

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**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.*

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**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:** Dr. Caron

**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.