



THE BEELINE

Olympia Beekeeper's Association Newsletter
May 2010

Next Meeting:

**Roosevelt Elementary School
1417 San Francisco Ave. NE**

Monday May 10, 2010

Class at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00p.m.

President's Notes!

Not much from me this month as I was busy in California (picking up bees for the club) and engaged with family celebrating the college graduation of my oldest son. I hope the installation of package bees when well for you. I continue to feed the package bees that I installed into hives because of the crummy weather. It is heart breaking that the weather is cold and rainy with so many trees blooming. Many of my hives are very strong and a couple swarmed while I was in California. I expect old queens in strong hives to take flight with the first spell of warm weather. So, pay attention to your hives to get them ready for the blackberry bloom.

We will be soliciting nomination for club officers at the next club meeting. Please consider volunteering. The small amount of work involved with being a club officer is very enjoyable and there are many members to help.

See you next Monday.

Dave Ragsdale, OBA president.

OBA MEETING MINUTES, April 12, 2010

The April 12th OBA meeting was called to order at 7:10p.m. by President Dave Ragsdale in the Cafeteria of the Roosevelt Elem. School, Olympia.

The minutes were sent out with the latest newsletter. There were 97 people present.

Financial Report: - Gail Booth

Checking Account	16,424.77 (pkg orders)
Savings Account	1,386.85
Cash on hand .	20.00

Other Reports:

Beginning Beekeeping Class:

There were 39 people present, 3 new. Lesson six and half of seven were studied.

Newsletter: Yvonne is “passing the torch” to Kim Knust who is the new Newsletter editor.

Website: Yvonne reported that we will need to obtain a server. She hopes to be up and running by July.

Equipment Workshop Report: Mark Savage stated that about twenty people came and were shown different kinds of examples and how to put them together.

Librarian: Susan Dolvin has purchased more books – NEW! To be checked out. She will also keep the electric honey extractor.

Mentoring List: Rich Kalman offered to keep track of a list he is sending around for volunteers to sign up to mentor.

Queen Rearing Group: Dave Ragsdale reported that they have had two meetings so far. With the help of Bob Rich, they hope to do some actual grafting in late May. Dave Ragsdale offered to host meetings re: The Genetics of queens and to determine how many they want to start with. The Silverdale Club charges \$10.00 per queen available to Club members in June or July.

Package Bee Orders: Almost 300 have been ordered. Dave Ragsdale will need to use a trailer to haul them all here. Should anyone want to order any more packages, call Gail Booth. Queens are available also. All monies need to be in before Dave drives to California on April 23, coming back on the 24th. Package pick-up time starts around 8:30 a.m. at home of Mark Savage who will demonstrate installing into a hive periodically through the day.

Equipment is available from Lila Juhl, Olympia; Harvard Robbins, Tacoma, and Sherwood’s in Onalaska.

Program: Jack Robertson demonstrated the “how to” of installing a package of bees into a hive. The addition of a “Bee-Pro” Patty was recommended if Bees are being placed on just foundation frame. Harvard Robbins – How to attract swarms e.g. with one box of an old cruddy frame he caught eleven swarms on the Braget Farm. He said that honeybees will not stay on fresh extracted combs! Leave a bait hive out – the older the better!

Mead Making: Rich Kalman stated that there are books to read up on it or go to a web site.

Dave Ragsdale showed basic equipment for making mead that can be purchased from a “Brewers supply place” Thomas Mani uses glass carboys. He is involved with experimenting with different yeasts and adding spices such as cloves, cinnamon or cardamom in the second fermentation.

Adjourned after 9:00 p.m. The cafeteria was put back in order.

Submitted by: A Marjorie Smith, Secretary

Mark Your Calendars!

OBA Annual Picnic – July 31st at Burfoot Park. We have the covered pavilion from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. If you’d like to volunteer to help with this event, see Gail Booth or drop an email to olympiabeekeepers@hotmail.com

The Thurston County Fair runs from Aug 4th through the 8th. The OBA bee booth has always been a big crowd pleaser. Please consider volunteering as booth staff for a 2-hour shift. Its great fun and you get free access to the fair!

Beekeeping Related Events

Messages recently sent to OBA:

Hello ,

I have a beekeeping supply store in Onalaska WA and would just like to let you and your members know we are open for business. We have a small shop where we are building woodenware and we have a fairly complete inventory of items see (attached price list) for those who are interested. We are fairly busy this time of year but would like to come to one of your meetings. When are your meetings? We have various workshops during the year that people would be welcome to attend, Hiving packages, making splits, assembling woodenware. Our website is www.sherwoodbees.com it's just getting started so all of our products are not on the website yet but they are being added all the time.

Thank You

Jason Sherwood

360-985-2211

www.sherwoodbees.com

Seattle International Film Festival: “Queen of the Sun”

The film *Queen of the Sun* will be shown at the [Seattle International Film Festival](#) on May 22 & 23 at the Harvard Exit. This film examines the global bee crisis through the eyes of beekeepers, scientists, philosophers, and farmers and features Michael Pollan, Vandana Shiva, Gunther Hauk, and beekeepers around the world. The film premiered at the Nashville Film Festival on April 17 and won Best Documentary-Honorable Mention. Check out the trailer on the film’s website.

Inquiries have been made for a local showing as well. Thank you John O’Brien!

HEADLINE NEWS

Japan police hunt 'bee rustlers'

By Roland Buerk

BBC News, Tokyo

Japanese bee-keepers have been warned to be on their guard, following a spate of hive thefts.

The price of honeybees has doubled in recent years after a ban on imports. Police suspect a gang of specialist thieves is stealing honeybees to order.

In central Shizuoka prefecture, eight hives of 60,000 bees were taken in a single night from five separate farms.

The area is well known for strawberry growing and farmers need honeybees to pollinate their crops.

The insects have been in short supply in Japan after imports were banned for several years to try to prevent the spread of parasites.

The price of a swarm has doubled to more than \$400 (£260).

The Japan Beekeepers and Honey Association says more than two million of the insects were stolen in 2009, and thefts are becoming more frequent.

The organisation has urged its members to be alert, but has admitted it is difficult to protect hives around the clock on remote farms.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/asia-pacific/8655685.stm>

Published: 2010/05/01 03:22:49 GMT

© BBC MMX

The Color of Honey

A sweetener that bee-devils food spoilage

http://www.sciencenews.org/sn_arc98/9_12_98/bob1.htm

Technology and Audio Links

Beetight is a free web application for beekeepers and is the best way to manage your hives and track them online or on your phone or PDA. You'll wonder how you ever survived with the old notebooks and spreadsheets!

<http://www.beetight.com/>

What's The Buzz On Beekeeping This Year?

April 2, 2010 1:00 PM

<http://www.wbur.org/npr/125502346>

Podcasts - Robo's World

Trial and Tribulations of a Hobby Beekeeper!

<http://robo.bushkillfarms.com/beekeeping/beekeeping-podcasts/>

Podcasts – Organically Managed Beekeeping Podcast and Blog

<http://somdbeekeeper.com/>



Did You Know.....?

- North American Indians called honeybees "white man flies" because Colonists brought them from Europe.
 - The average honeybee can fly at a speed of 15 miles per hour.
 - A hive of bees must fly 55,000 miles to produce a pound of honey.
 - It would take approximately one ounce of honey to fuel a bee's flight around the earth.
 - The fructose in honey makes it sweeter than sugar. At 21 calories a teaspoon it is one and a half times sweeter than sugar.
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Membership

If you haven't already done so, please fill out the form and pay either Gail Booth at the meeting or send payment to her address (bottom of form). Dues not been received by April will no longer receive the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FORM OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Membership Fees \$20.00 a year 2010___ 2011___ Total___

Membership Name

First_____ Last_____

Phone Number (_____)--____--_____

Mailing Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

EMAIL_____

If you do not wish to have your contact information made available to OBA members please check here. _____

Discount subscription coupons to AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and BEE CULTURE are available to members.

Bring dues to meeting or mail to treasurer:

Gail Booth
4526 Pleasant Glade Rd NE
Olympia, WA 98516

Make Checks to Olympia Beekeepers Association (OBA)

<p>Kim Knust, Editor Olympia Beekeeper's Association</p> <p>To submit contributions or ideas Email: OlympiaBeekeepers@hotmail.com Call 360-923-1284</p>	<p>The Beeline Olympia Beekeeper's Association</p>
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