

May 2014

OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



NEWS AND INTEREST FROM THE MAY 12, 2014 MEETING

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

Secretary's Report:

Call to order at 7:05 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.

A big thank you was "sent" to Harvard and Renzy for the smooth ordering and pick-up of new bees in April.

New business

Introduction of new officers as accepted at the March meeting.

Thomas Mani asked for volunteers to set up a table at P.S. I love you on June 14, 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Laurie Pyne announced that the club now owns a pop up tent to use at various events.

New Meeting Venue

The Association meeting will take place at our new venue in July. We will meet at The Farm Bureau Building at 975 Carpenter Road NE in Lacey.

Chair Reports

Jim Reick still encouraging members to sign up as mentors for new beekeepers, and new beekeepers to sign up for a mentor.

Rich Kalman reported on the club's new apiary at the Kiwanis gardens. Two packages of bees were installed in two hives. Current goals for the apiary include hands on classes including hive inspection. Public outreach will be a major focus.

Paul Longwell was introduced as the clubs new librarian.

Gail Booth reported on the swarm list. Gail is our contact person for swarms and can be reached at 360-491-4968. Gail spoke to the club about what to bring along on a swarm retrieval. It is best to bring a white sheet, a box that closes up, and clippers. It is important to remember that we can use swarms as an opportunity to involve and educate the community about honey bees. She was asked by a club member to ask swarm members to report what time of day they are available, since so many people are at work during typical swarm times.

It was also suggested that we use a large map to indicate where members had hives, an online application, and Hive Track as tools for finding hives.

Swarm cell phone coming soon!

Renzy Davenport passed out certificate for Apprentice Beekeepers. Congratulations to Alex Hudson, Sean Pender and Maryann Anderson.

Program

David Hudson presented on splits and re-queening a hive.

President's Message

Swarm season is upon us. Although I personally haven't had the opportunity to retrieve a swarm (yet) keep your eyes open out there. I've been getting many reports from folks who have been capturing them and expanding their apiaries. Thanks to Gail Booth for heading up the swarm team for OBA this year. If you haven't gotten your information to Gail to be on the list, please see her at the next meeting.

A huge thanks to Olympia Federal Savings for the opportunity to create a bee display in the old Schoenfeld building window. The exposure was great for the club and spurring interest in bees and was really helpful in publicizing our spring event at The Evergreen State College.

This will be our last meeting at Chinook Middle School until the fall. We will be meeting in July and August at the Farm Bureau building at 975 Carpenter Rd. NE, Lacey, class at 6:00 and meeting at 7:00 per usual.

For those that signed up to help with the OBA's booth at the PS I Love You Fest in Olympia on June 14th, I'll be in touch with more information. If you'd like to help man the booth, please let me know. Dixon will be bringing the club's demonstration/observation hive which is always an attention-getter and conversation starter for all ages. Thanks to Mark Emrich who applied his master craftsman talents and built a beautiful new observation hive for the club. We're also thinking ahead to the Thurston County Fair in August and continuing to look for outreach and display materials.

The club apiary is buzzing along. Interactive opportunities for members are coming so look for those announcements.

I hope everyone's hives are doing well. Questions or problems? Please bring them to the upcoming meeting as it's an important way to share and learn from each other.

Will look forward to seeing everyone at the Monday meeting.

Laurie

p.s. - we will vote on awards at the June 9th meeting after final nominations from the floor; Board Meeting June 17th.

Treasurer's Report

Checking ~ \$3,795.65

Savings ~ \$5,130.91

Funds received from May Raffle \$26.00

Wagging Bees Give Their Verdict on a Landscape

European officials have spent more than \$56 billion over the past decade in a program to mitigate landscape change and encourage environmentally friendly practices by farmers. But there is little evidence on how effective these vast expenditures have been. So researchers at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England, decided to seek the opinion of some discriminating judges of environmental quality: [bees](#).

Bees maximize the effectiveness of the hive's foraging trips by sharing information on the best sites for nectar and pollen. Successful foragers communicate the distance and direction of good sources by the waggle dance they perform on their return.

By recording and decoding more than 5,000 waggle dances over two years, [Margaret J. Couvillon](#) and colleagues have extracted precise information about the bees' opinions of the landscape around Brighton. Bees from a single hive can cover about 40 square miles of territory. The human legwork required to monitor nectar and pollen sources over such an area would be considerable.

The bees' verdict, [reported in the journal Current Biology](#), was that two nearby nature reserves were the best places for foraging. The bees did not seem particularly impressed with the areas under improved landscape practices, probably because although they were specially planted with nectar-rich flowers like clover and bird's-foot trefoil, these tracts were regularly mowed.

Bees to bureaucrats: Stop mowing, and let the flowers bloom.
NICHOLAS WADE



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: David Hudson - more Queen Rearing.

June: Record-keeping.

July: Meeting in new location. Picnic (?)

August: Thurston county fair.

National Honey Bee Day 2014 - Aug 16th

September: 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 are refreshments available.