

Oct 2013

OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



December in Hawaii

NEWS AND INTEREST FROM THE OCTOBER 14, 2013 MEETING

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

Meeting Minutes

Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting

October 14, 2013

The Treasurer's Report and Minutes from the September 2013 meeting were approved.

New Business

Education: For the location of the November 11 Apprentice Beekeeping class, please check the newsletter or look for a sign in the hallway to direct you to the classroom location. We are working with Chinook Middle School to secure a continuous classroom location.

New Members: Approximately three new members introduced themselves.

WSU hive testing for neonicotinoids:

Approximately 50 hives have been sampled so far in Thurston, Pierce and Lewis Counties. Photos of samples being taken from Laurie Pyne's hives are posted on the club Facebook page. Tim Lawrence and Steve Sheppard are seeking more apiaries to sample and are hoping to collect during clear weather spells for the rest of this year, so if you are on their list for hive testing but have not yet had this done, they may be calling to schedule. If you'd like to participate in the hive testing but have not yet signed up, please contact Laurie as soon as possible at Impcarl@gmail.com.

Screening of the film More Than Honey: As the Olympia Film Society did not respond to our request to schedule the screening for November 23, 2013, this has been postponed and will possibly be moved to The Evergreen State College for screening in February or March of 2014 instead.

OBA club clothing: Thank you to Mother Irene and Holy Theophany Monastery for designing and embroidering the OBA logo onto sweatshirts and ball caps. Men's and women's hooded sweatshirts and ball caps are now available for order. If you missed the chance to complete an order form at the meeting, you can print and mail your order form and check made out to the Olympia Beekeepers Association to Laurie at 15520 Heidi Lane SE, Tenino, WA 98589 by October 28, 2013.

2013 WSBA Conference:

Thank you to Ernie Schmidt for representing the OBA at the 2013 WSBA conference with his excellent presentation on Warré hives. A discussion arose about the conference and some of the presentations there. More notes on the conference will be shared in the newsletter.

Update from Mark Emrich:

Approximately 86 people per day attended the WSBA conference. Over \$6000.00 was raised at the auctions ran for their foundation. The WSBA has donated \$7500.00 to WSU for three different studies.

A sizeable bee-kill near Port Angeles was reported earlier this year. It was discovered that the DNR was responsible following their pesticide application to fireweed and blackberries in flower. The DNR admitted their mistake, and have asked the WSBA to help them assess their pesticide application protocol.

Mark has joined a sub-committee that governs pesticide application to roadways, median strips, parks, etc. in Thurston County. Each county has its own pesticide application division. Mark has asked beekeepers in other counties to join the pesticide application boards in their respective counties as well.

Reminder to please register your hives. This will allow the DNR to determine if beehives are located within the area they are planning to apply pesticides, and if so, they must contact the hive owner 14 working days in advance of application. If the beekeeper is unable to move their hives from

that area, the application of pesticides is not allowed. There is a link to register your hives on the WSBA site. This is the only way to have them recognized by the DNR and protected from overspray.

Dialogue with Thurston County Commissioner Sandra Romero:

Laurie, Mark and John O'Brien met Sandra Romero to discuss the club's involvement with neonicotinoid hive testing, as well as the OBA's booth at next year's Thurston County Fair. Sandra is very interested in supporting the club's efforts.

Report from Chair People:

Rich Kalman, Program Chair – Volunteers are needed for the monthly program. If you have a program topic idea or are interested in speaking or presenting on a topic, please volunteer. You don't need to be an expert. Please see Rich if you are interested.

Dana Smith, Membership Chair – Reminder that membership renewal is due. Renewal is \$20.00 for existing members and \$25.00 after December.

Bob Smith, Education Chair – Going forward; if you are signing up for a course, the new cost is \$15.00. The new cost is broken down as \$10.00 for the course book, and \$5.00 for a patch that is received upon course completion.

Program: Feeding your bees

Weighing calculations for products, and hive ventilation - David Bruun
Candy Boards - Dana Smith and Duane McBride
Top Bar Quilts - Paul Longwell and David Bruun
Pollen Patties - Patrick Sturgill

Treasurers Report:

\$3,322.98 Checking
\$5,129.59 Savings
Cash on hand: 18.31
FYI: income from meeting raffle: \$ 33.00

From the President:

Hi everyone,

It was a beautiful day today and the bees here were sure out and about. In a follow up message from Tim Lawrence today, he noted that he was able to get out in the weeks following the state conference and obtain samples from approximately 16 more apiaries. Sampling is now concluded so as to not disturb winter clusters. He's planning on heading out again in the spring to obtain the remaining samples. If you signed up to be on the list, you are still on the list and will be contacted in the spring prior to the next round of sampling.

We touched briefly on some of the subjects presented at the Washington State Beekeeper's Conference at our last meeting. The speakers were varied and excellent and it was a great opportunity to learn, meet other beekeepers, share and pick up a few new pearls of wisdom. What most stood out to me was that as beekeepers, we really need to be proactive in learning not only about supporting our bees, but to stay current on issues that can have an impact on bees.

It's clear that there are two camps for varroa control; the first, that treats with Hopguard or Apivar and folks like commercial beekeeper Eric Olsen that uses it on every hive and the Michael Bush side of the equation which allows the bees to make their own comb, rather than drawn on foundation so as to keep the cell size small and reduce the larger drone comb. The varroa may be mistaking large worker cells for drones, which may be increasing mite counts, according to Michael. He reports no varroa problems in his hives, and this has been certified by his state. Certainly something to think about. Michael's talk can be found at <http://www.bushfarms.com/beespresentations.htm> as well as a host of other information.

Another great website given was Martha Gilliam's at www.beeuntoothers.com. There are some really great articles here by clicking through the beekeeping tab at the top of the page.

The evidence for the benefit of controlled temperature winter "storage" for bees continues to be strong. A two month stay in winter of Eric Olsen's hives has dramatically reduced his overwintered colony loss to 4.4% and is a topic of more research on the subject. The national industry loss in 2012 was 45%. Considering that beekeeping is a 14.6 billion dollar pollination services industry (2 billion of that is the almond industry) keeping our bees healthy has a huge economic impact. Did you know that the U.S. produces 85% of the world's almonds?

One study was done, as mentioned at the meeting, on treating packages for mites, comparing oxalic acid (not registered for us in WA, though it is in the EU and Canada) and Hopguard. Pre-treatment package mite loads (30 packages were tested) was .4-5.4%. This study found no difference in treating with either chemical than the control but confirmed that if you are going to treat for mites, use the first broodless opportunity to do so. This study is slated to be repeated.

On the topic of neonicotinoids and bees, discussed was all we really don't know, including the sublethal effects and how much of these substances actually move into pollen and nectar. There are multiple routes of pesticide exposure for bees living near agricultural fields, particularly lethal to bees during planting time. There is a newly discovered way of exposure of these pesticides to bees, called guttation, which is the little droplets of water that form on the leaf of a plant due to pressure in the plant's roots. Some neonicotinoids interfere with bees' memory, which can impact foraging. These pesticides may also be decreasing a bee's

resistance to varroa and nosema. And, with natural habitats being destroyed, how do we make an impact to promote the preservation of acreage as natural areas for foraging? We can certainly plant flowers and if you go to the website www.pollinator.org you can enter your zip code and find suitable plants for your area. More than one speaker here pointed out that monoculture is akin to an agricultural desert. Conservation of wild places is critical for our bees and other wildlife.

And, as also mentioned at the meeting, a great presentation on the Miller Method of queen rearing was given, an approachable way to propagate your own queens. This talk showed me that queen rearing is possible, and using this method, took a lot of my personal "fear factor" out of the equation. We'll be looking into bringing this speaker and Sue Cobey to the club after Christmas.

Those are a few of the highlights from the conference. Nature is resilient, to be sure, but informed beekeepers and an informed public serves to help our amazing honeybees.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the November meeting, which will be on the third Monday of the month due to the Veterans Day Holiday.

Laurie

Bee News Sources

Beekeepers who want to keep up on the news about honeybees, or want to research a particular topic, can visit the websites, listed below.

These sites, maintained by the various publishers, provide indexes of recent articles on honeybees in their own or others' publications.

Capital Press

<http://www.capitalpress.com/section/search?text=honey&x=10&y=11>

Science Daily

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/search/?type=news&keyword=bees§ion=plants&filename=&period=30&sort=relevance>

Nature

<http://www.nature.com/search/executeSearch?sp-q-1=NATURE%2CNEWS&sp-q=bees&sp-c=25&sp-m=0&sp-s=&sp-a=sp1001702d&sp-sfvl-field=subject%7Cujournal&sp-x-1=ujournal&sp-p-1=phrase&sp-p=all&submit=go>

New York Times

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/science/topics/bees/index.html>

The Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/series/buzzfeeds>

Australian government

http://agencysearch.australia.gov.au/search/search.cgi?subsearch=apvma_all&query=honey+bees&collection=agencies&num_ranks=20&client=443b4295

VDRB (Swiss Bee-Newspaper, in German)

<http://www.vdrb.ch/aktuelles/news.html?L=>

Die Biene (The Bee, in German)

<http://www.diebiene.de/>

Le Monde (In French)

http://www.lemonde.fr/recherche/?keywords=abeille&qt=recherche_globale

Zombie Bees

As mentioned in the meeting, if you believe you may have Zombie Bees, the University of Washington is attempting to collect intensive data on the infection of Honey Bees.

They have some preliminary pre-paid mail-in sampling packets with instructions on hive site collecting. **Your hive does not have to be officially confirmed as having Zombie Bees to send in samples.**

What they need from you:

1. NAME
2. MAILING ADDRESS
3. EMAIL ADDRESS (FOR QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONTACT)

They do ask that you only request them if you will use them.

If interested, send email to Ashley Powell (aspowel0@uw.edu) Biology Student who is one point of contact. Also, Evan Sugden (easugden@u.washington.edu) Professor, biology department.

You can visit <https://www.zombeewatch.org>

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Locate bees that show symptoms (flying at night, disoriented on pavement, near porch lights or other lights).
- 2) Collect bees using tweezers or forceps and put them in the provided vials. Firmly plug the vial with some cotton to keep bees inside.
- 3) Fill out the data form on next page, one per sample (per location and date). We must be able to assume that the data pertain to the bees in the vial. If you send more than one sample, tape each sample to a separate copy of this form.
- 4) Immediately mail the vial in the pre-paid mailer. If you do not send ASAP, the sample may go moldy and be unusable.
- 5) It is possible that fly larva may emerge from the sample before you send it. This is OK, just leave them in the plugged vial undisturbed.
- 6) Please be judicious, observe carefully before collecting. Read about parasite and its symptoms in the bees on the ZomBee website (link above). Be certain that your samples exhibit the proper symptoms. We are trying to avoid being flooded with false alarm samples. Remember that in Fall, it is normal for dead or dying bees to be thrown out of the hive.
- 7) If your sample proves to be infected with the Zombie Fly, we will let you know. Your email address is the most convenient way for us to do this.

DATA

Please fill this out and return with sample(s).

Name _____

Email address _____

Address _____

GPS coordinates if available _____

Time of day sample collected _____

Bee strain if known (i.e., Italian, Carniolan) _____

Distance from hives (feet or meters) _____ ft _____ M

Observed behavior of bees: _____

Lab Staff Only:

Sample No. _____

Condition _____

Comments: _____

September Program:

Feeding techniques and recipes.
Hope you learned something and
enjoyed the program.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: NOV. 18, 2013

**DIXON WILL SHARE INFORMATION FROM HIS TRIP TO
KIEV TO ATTEND THE “INTERNATIONAL BEEKEEPERS
CONVENTION”; AND**

**THOMAS MANI WILL SHARE INFORMATION FROM HIS
ATTENDANCE AT THE “NON-TREATMENT CONFERENCE”,
(E.G., INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT)**

Other Interest News Links from Roy:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/26/opinion/international/bee-survival-in-europe.html?emc=eta1>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/22/science/the-sweet-life.html?emc=eta1>

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



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: Planning ahead

February: Nominations for officers requested.
Plan your bee order.

March: Order bees. Elect officers.

April: Bees arrive.

May: What To Do Now!

June: Last meeting before summer break.

July: Summer break. Picnic!

August: Thurston county fair.

September: Meetings resume - annual dues payable.

October: Preparing for Winter

November: Latest News

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.

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