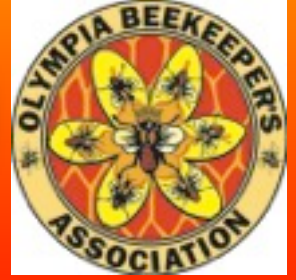


October 2014

# OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



## NEWS AND INTEREST FROM THE OCT 13, 2014 MEETING

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

### President's Message

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Michael Bush event a huge success. Over 90 people attended to absorb the extraordinary amount of wonderful information he presented. Michael has a way of distilling down to the most important details while keeping it fun, interesting and interactive. His experience indicates that allowing the bees to make a cell size of their own choosing is paramount to the strength of the hive. He no longer uses foundation. He also provided a very thought-provoking discussion on the diminishing quality of produced queens and how easily we can all have a few of our own. Did you know that sugar syrup has a pH of 6 whereas honey is 3.2-4.5? Sugar syrup creates a perfect environment for European foulbrood, nosema and chalkbrood, according to Michael but can be properly acidified with ascorbic acid and not vinegar as many of us have used. He recommended 6 grams of ascorbic acid in 5

gallons of syrup. You must dissolve the ascorbic acid in water, first, however. Overall, he provided a lot of food for thought on how to best manage our bees, using the natural ecology of the hive as the basis for understanding why we do what we do (or don't, as the case may be). You can check out his programs on his website at [www.bushfarms.com](http://www.bushfarms.com) to learn more.

The holidays are fast approaching and with that, the annual Christmas party that occurs at the December meeting. To make that happen, we're looking for a few people to organize it. The club typically purchases a turkey, ham and soft drinks with additional dishes brought by members and served potluck style. Got some new ideas for the party? Please contact me at [LMPCarl@gmail.com](mailto:LMPCarl@gmail.com) if you'd like to head up the festivities!

Also, dues are due. Your annual dues help pay for our meeting space and other association expenses that keep the club going. We're able to provide interesting and informative speakers at meetings, ensure we have a room for the apprentice and journeymen classes, maintain a swarm phone line, provide outreach materials on bees to the public, have extraction equipment available to loan to members and keep our club apiary up and running because of your dues. Dana will be very happy to accept your membership check or cash at the next meeting, and if you can't be there, simply print a registration form out on the website and mail it in to Olympia Beekeepers Association, P.O. Box 732, Olympia, WA 98507. And, if your'e not a member yet, please consider joining. Repeatedly, members tell us they want more information on bees and how to be a better beekeeper and your club officers strive to achieve this. The association is a great resource for information and connection in one place! And, if there's something you'd like to see added to future programs, please let us know.

Looking forward to seeing you at the November meeting,

Laurie



## Secretary's Report

### Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting October 12, 2014

Call to order at 7:08 p.m.

#### Old Business

The minutes and Treasurer's Report from September were moved and accepted.

Members were encouraged to sign up tonight for the Michael Bush event coming up on October 25. Don't miss him it's a treat! Come and get some practical information on beekeeping!

Members were reminded that yearly dues of 25.00 needed to be paid.

#### New business

Olympia Beekeepers have been invited to present at the Wet Science Center on November 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Four volunteers need to man a booth and give a presentation at 2:00 p.m. Pat Sturgill, Trisha Shaw, Michele Lanahan and Duane McBride volunteered to help out.

Steve Sheppard articles are now posted on the Olympia Beekeepers Web site at <http://www.olympiabeekeepers.org/> for your reading pleasure.

Laurie Pyne and Mark Emrich attended the Seattle City Council meeting. The council voted to ban the use of neonicotinoids on all Seattle property.

#### Chair reports

**Dana Smith** says that coupons for the Bee Journal discount will be e-mailed to members in good standing.

**Rich Kalman** reported that he is stepping down as caretaker of the club apiary. He will be handing the responsibility over to Bert Lewis. Bert reminded us that his e-mail is on the web and all are welcome to come and help!

**Bob Smith** gave a report on a Honey Production Annual Meeting held in British Columbia. He came home with a new copy of Honeybee Pests and Diseases which he recommends we purchase as a club citing its usefulness. He thought the cost would be less than 15.00 each if we bought in bulk.

Bob also cited an article that will be on the club web site regarding a 400 million dollar suit against Bayer and Syngenta. The suit claims that hives died as a result of neonicotinoid use.

Bob put a call out for Joseph Wiley and John Wiley and Aaron Prisk. He has certification for each of them.

**Paul Longwell** our club librarian is asking that anyone who has books out please remember to return them. We have a new book called Making Mead available to borrow. Any used books for donation are welcome.

**Roy Manicke** reported on his visit to the Western Apiculture Society conference in Missoula Montana. He attended 2 of the 4 days. Data and information were the focus of the first day. He took in a workshop on technology and data put on by Bayer and Monsanto. They say they are data driven. Where some beekeepers lift their hives others use a scale to determine weight. Weighing with a scale makes it easier to monitor progress over time. He says we can Google "hive scale" for more information.

Roy says there is a national effort or partnership between Bee Informed.org and NASA. Bee informed will send bee data to NASA.

He learned more about data regarding temperature and humidity. There were apparatus used to measure acoustics as well as infrared cameras.

He reminds us that even with technology options we need to use judgment!

On his second day he took in several activities. Bill Hughes (of the White House Writers Group on neonicotinoids) focused on media, politics and science spoke. We need more science and data to get to the truth. There was also the Michael Bush Treatise on Science and Bees.

Courtney Fullerton from Glacier County Honey Company spoke on how to sell honey products online.

**Mark Emrich (WSBA President)** reminded membership that the Washington State Beekeepers will meet on October 26<sup>th</sup> in Ellensburg from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. will be set aside for yearly business and elections. He encouraged members to attend.

Vashon is attempting to ban neonicotinoids like Long Island citing a single aquifer as the reason.

The city of Renton wants is looking into a possible change to the current ban on bee hives on commercial property. The businesses want hives and are looking at Tumwater and Olympia regulations as examples on how to accomplish their goals.

In November we are filing for insurance coverage and should know the cost by December for Statewide Insurance coverage. There has been slow response from members.

Six members from Washington State are going to South Africa. We are supporting with educational materials.

Puerto Rico wants to teach the WASB Masters program and we are in negotiations

## Program

Franclyn Heinecke presented on the importance of weeds as forage for honeybees.

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:**

**August:** Meeting at Farm Bureau - Program will be on Harvesting and Extraction.

**February:**

**September:** Time to renew membership.

**March:**

**October:** Weeds and Bees

**April:**

**November:** Tentatively - Candle Making

**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*

**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.