

September 2013

OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



NEWS AND INTEREST FROM THE SEPT. 9, 2013 MEETING

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

President's Report: Hi everyone,

It's hard to believe we're getting our hives ready for winter and that summer is gone! With the fall and winter months upon us, it makes for a perfect time to learn more about our bees and beekeeping. A great way to start is by attending the Washington State Beekeeper's Association annual conference. I had some trepidation attending my first conference as a new beekeeper, thinking much of it was going to be beyond me, but this was unfounded. There is a plethora of information provided that will appeal to seasoned beekeepers as well as those just getting started. I strongly encourage you to attend—even if you can only make one day. The conference is being held in Federal Way from October 3-5th at the Best Western Evergreen Inn and Suites. Come on out, meet some like-minded folks and peruse supplies from the vendors there. More information

on the conference can be found here: <http://wasba.org/event/wsba-annual-conference-2013/>

At our next OBA meeting on October 14th, we will be holding our beginning (Apprentice) beekeeping class from 6-7:00 (the regular time) in the small gym at Chinook Middle School. We needed a bigger space to accommodate our growing group, so look for signs directing you to the gym when you arrive. The Journeymen group will be meeting, concurrently, in the cafeteria.

Neonicotinoid hive testing continues as I type, and as new information becomes available it will be passed on via e-mail. If you are interested in having your hives tested per the previously sent protocol from Drs. Tim Lawrence and Steve Sheppard at WSU, please e-mail me at LMPCarl@gmail.com. If you know anyone in the Puget Sound area that has hives that might be

interested, please pass that along as well. Pierce and Lewis county clubs are also participating, but at last word Tim was still looking for more samples. Club members that have had their hives sampled have reported the experience positive and easy. I am waiting for a current update.

Mark Emrich, John O'Brien and myself met with Thurston County Commissioner Sandra Romero last week to update her on the neonicotinoid testing program, other current beekeeping "events" and to talk about how she and the county can help promote advocacy for bees and other pollinators. We discussed some ideas about implementable community awareness programs and how our local association and state associations might help and also talked about some educational ideas for the Thurston County fair next year.

Don't forget to save November 23rd on your calendars for a special screening of the film "More than Honey" at the Capitol Theater in Olympia. More details will be forthcoming and if you're interested in helping with posters, raffle prizes from local businesses, marketing, etc. please let me know.

Hope to see some familiar faces at the conference!

Happy fall,

Laurie Pyne
President, Olympia Beekeepers Association

Meeting Minutes

Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting

September 9, 2013

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

New Business

Reminder: Please make sure that the Club has your correct email address. If you have not received several emails from the club recently, please update your email address with Dana Smith, Membership Chair.

Approximately 10 members indicated that Tim Lawrence of WSU had come to take comb samples from their hives for neonicotinoid testing and that the experience was positive. WSU requires more hives for the study. If you are interested in participating, email Laurie Pyne at Impcarl@gmail.com. Testing is anonymous, with hives assigned a number instead of by member name. Results will be made available in March of 2014.

Thank you to those members who represented the Club at the Thurston County Fair. If you are interested in upcoming outreach, please contact Laurie. A local community event is taking place on October 16, 2013. More details on this event will be posted in the Beeline.

The Club is seeking to develop more outreach materials such as printed materials and demonstration items. If you are someone who can help with the sourcing of these or know someone who can, please contact Laurie.

The Pierce County Club is seeking help for the Washington State Fair. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Renzy Davenport at renzbeefishing@gmail.com. Tickets will be provided to volunteers.

Announcements

After reading an article about the effect of neonicotinoid pesticides on bees, the owner of Lincoln Creek Lumber in Tumwater requested that the manager of his store remove all products containing these pesticides from the store shelves. A list of products containing neonicotinoids will be made available in the Beeline.

The Port Blakely Tree Farm donated \$250.00 to the club at a recent lunch event.

The OBA has a new membership dues structure. As the fiscal year runs from September to September, membership dues will now be payable in September. This will simplify the club's bookkeeping. The dues are \$20.00 for the year for existing members if paid by the December 2013 meeting. Dues for new members and for renewal of existing membership after the December 2013 meeting are \$25.00.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 23, 2013, as the club is sponsoring a screening of the film *More Than Honey* at the Olympia Capitol Theatre that evening. Laurie has been in contact with filmmaker Markus Imhoof, who may be able to attend the screening for a Q & A session with viewers. Sponsorships will be secured for the event, with the goal of making money for the club from ticket sales. More information is forthcoming. If you are interested in assisting with this event, please see Laurie or Rebbeckah.

A WSU graduate student of entomology who is studying native pollinators in urban and rural Thurston and King county is seeking organic farmers to collaborate in a study around augmenting native bee habitat nesting sites. Each farm with augmented nesting habitats will be examined 3 to 4 times a year. If you are an organic farmer in Thurston County who is interested in participating in this study, please contact Laurie to be connected to the student conducting the study.

Extraction Equipment – Ivor Melmore

Ivor listed the extracting equipment that he keeps for the club at his home near Priest Point Park. This includes a hand cranked and electric extractor, two de-capping trays and lids, two five gallon buckets with honey gates, two sieves, two de-capping tools and two hot knives. If you would like to borrow equipment, email Ivor at beeyard@comcast.net. The electric extractor is currently in need of a replaced part, but Ivor is working on resolving this. Equipment must be returned clean and in good working order.

Roy Manicke provided the following links to help us keep informed:

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-sfv1-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

And don't forget to visit the Washington State Beekeepers site: <http://wasba.org>

September Program:

Program: Preparing your hives for winter

Tricia Shaw: Assessing hive strength for the winter

Renzy Davenport and Bob Smith: Extracting honey

David Bruun: Ways to keep bees dry and healthy through the winter

Gail Booth: Queen replacement in the fall

Roy Manicke: Pests and pest control

October Program:

Members of the Program Committee will be offering information on feeding your bees, including handouts for recipes of fondant and bee candy.

The Committee is working to establish the topics for entire year so if you have any pressing issues that you think everyone would like to hear about, please be prepared to make suggestions at the meeting. Thank you!

Program:

Invitation: To All who attend the OBA meetings:

Please consider presenting a short (about 5 minute) show-and-tell topic at a future 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: Annual Dues (\$25) are payable.

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.

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 small gym next to the cafeteria.

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.