

August 2015

OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS



REPORTS, NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

September Program

Ray Willard, DOT

and

Membership Renewal Time

President's Message

Fall is in the air and it's that time of year to plan for winter with our bees. It's not been a normal-anything-kind-of-year especially for bees and I've been hearing from folks whose bees are already going through lots of their stores. Or getting robbed, a biggie to watch out for as well.

Don't forget that we return to **Chinook Middle School** for our meetings starting this month. Apprentice class is from 6:00-7:00 PM in a classroom.....look for the sign pointing the way to the room when you enter the building.

Regular meeting is from 7:00-8:00 PM in the cafeteria. Remember, a treat to share for the break is always welcome. Kathy Miles does a yeoman's job in making sure we have refreshments at each meeting, so thank you to Kathy!

Sand in the City proved to be a great time for all. And if you made it to Olympia for the event, you got to see the Waldorf School's entry. It was an homage to pollinators replete with a honeycomb "wall", intricately petalled flowers and even a bee! The other sculptures were equally wonderful. It's easy to see why this is such a huge family event in Olympia. Thanks to Duane McBride, Pat Sturgill, Perry Holtsberry, Joyce Kilmer, Patrice Donovan, Dixon Fellows, Kitty and Roger Schiltz, Brian and Joanie Offord, Bonnie and Doug Herrington, Mark Emrich, Phil Yarosz, Frank Scolaro and Allen Anderson for your time, talents and energy!

King 5 recently did a news piece on the beekeeping program at Cedar Creek Corrections Center via the Sustainability in Prisons Program (SPP). The OBA is working with the fantastic folks at the Sustainability in Prisons Program to provide beekeeping programs and education in other prisons including Cedar Creek and Stafford Creek. Stay tuned for more information and see the link, below, for the King 5 piece.

<http://www.king5.com/story/tech/science/environment/2015/08/28/bees-behind-bars-give-prisoners-a-second-chance/71290592/>

State Association Mark Emrich, Pierce county President Franclyn Heinecke, commercial beekeepers Eric Olson and Tim Hiatt and myself will be meeting with our new WA State Department of Agriculture Director this week. We're also gearing up for a multi-county beekeeping association meeting in Lewis County on October 3rd so stay tuned for more information on the outcome and discussion from these meetings.

We have a special guest presenter on Monday night from the Department of Transportation. Ray Willard, Landscape Architect and Roadside Maintenance Manager will be talking to us about the work the DOT is doing towards pollinator conservation. I had no idea the extent of the state's plans to enhance pollinator forage until I sat in on a commissioner's meeting with him in the past year. He will have a lot of great information to share. And then our very own Paul Longwell will be presenting how to make candy boards, robbing screens, homemade feeders and other items of interest. It's never too early to start thinking about candy boards!

For those of you who offered to help with the Nisqually Watershed Festival on September 26th, I'll be in touch soon.

That's it for now. Happy honey extracting!

Laurie

Secretary's Report

Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting

August 10, 2015

Call to order at 7:02 p.m.

Old Business

This is the last meeting at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Next month we will resume meeting at Chinook Middle School at 4301 6th Ave NE Lacey, Washington 98516.

July minutes were approved as written. No treasurers report at this time.

Nikki McClure signs are for sale at \$20 for members. We have two signs that were graciously signed by the artist for future special/fundraising projects. Pins of the sign design are \$5 each. Future meetings for the Bee A Pollinator project are planned with the county and co-leaders regarding the next steps.

Thank you to Paul Longwell for all the work that he did at the Thurston County Fair to make it such a successful event. Special thank you to Paul and Penny Longwell for the arbor upgrade and beautiful job on the pollinator garden which one a fair award for the second year in a row! Paul's noted "It was too dang hot but, fantastic." There was a drop in attendance because of the heat at the fair this year. Thank you to all 24 volunteers that helped man the bee booth. We gave out over 4,000 honey sticks between Thurston County and Grays Harbor County fairs. Paul has been nominated to be on the Thurston County Fair board and will push for our signs and honey to be sold at the fair next year.

A special thank you also went to Mary Haynes for coordinating the Grays Harbor County Fair. by Mary Haynes thanked the Grays Harbor County Fair participants. Special thanks also to Ron Scholzen (who fought to get us an

awesome site at the GH fairgrounds) and to Patrick Sturgill who helped set up, monitor daily activities and take down daily.

New Business

Sand in the City will be our next big outreach event at the Hands on Children's Museum. Need more people to volunteer! The observation hive will be there and we anticipate a great turnout.

We are also invited to table at the Nisqually Watershed Festival at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge on September 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We need more volunteers as well as the observation hive for visitors to view our beautiful bees! We'll be set up in the refuge's new "Insect Room".

Laure took names of volunteers for each event and said she'd be contacting them soon.

The award for the Mark Savage Lifetime Achievement and Beekeeper of the year have been chosen and will be recognized at the September meeting at Chinook Middle School.

There is a new head of the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Laurie and Mark will be meeting with him soon.

Andy Matelich reported that Washington State Fair honey entries must be in by September 7th . Contact Bob Smith at 253-318-6719 or pse@oz.net for more information

Treasurers Report:

Savings: \$4463.34
Checking: \$1,308.29.

Chair reports

Duane McBride, Membership, says it's time to pay your dues! Dues are \$25 for the year. Duane contacted American Bee Journal which is owned by Dadant. They sent books and other items to share. They also sent a sign-up for Dadant and a sample inspection sheet to copy. Also included was a box of copies of The American Bee Journal. The discounted price for American Bee Journal (for members) is \$21 a year.

Duane also contacted Bee Culture. They sent nothing and took away any discounts we formerly had enjoyed.

Jim Rieck, Mentor Chair asked that you please see him during the break for a mentor or to become a mentor.

Bert Lewis, Apiary Lead will be at the club apiary this Saturday. Participants will be reversing hive bodies and taking a look into the hives to see how things are going. The September plan is for a honey extraction event. There are now four small jars of honey because the hives were changed from 10 frame to 8 frame hives.

David Bruun, Program Chair is working on reorganizing the Christmas party. He needs suggestions on how to speed up the gift exchange. Also we will have a Hive of the year award at that time.

Mark Emrich, WSBA President is working with the Department of Revenue on how we will implement the new agriculture law as regards to Beekeepers.

The State President report to the USDA includes concerns that people are pulling honey from their hives and we are into Fall-like forage conditions. Mark says to be sure and water your bees. Honey production North and East in Washington are way down. May cause more

problems with varroa mites. Hive beetles from Southern United States already are appearing as far north as Canada. Lucky for us it won't over winter here!

October 10th is the Fall state association meeting in Ellensburg. This will be Mark's last meeting as President of the State Association. He believes it is time to hand over the reigns. The new Presidents must be able to fund raise and delegate projects. Contact Mark if you are interested.

Paul Longwell commented that adding horse electrolyte (just a pinch) to bees water is helpful now.

Glen Buschman announced that there will be a Natural Pollinators Study Group on September 28 at the Olympia Timberland Library.

Break

Program Professor Danny Najera from Green River College on the waggle dance and bee communication.



*Sand in the City
and Waldorf School Sculpture*



Honeybees dying, situation ‘unheard of’



Honeybees at an Eau Claire, Mich., orchard last year. Beekeeper Jim Baerwald, owner of His Bee Farms in Eau Claire, said he has seen losses in the number of bees. (Don Campbell/The Herald-Palladium/AP)

Just last year, it seemed there was something to celebrate despite planet Earth’s ongoing honeybee apocalypse: Bee colony losses were down. Not by enough, but they were down.

“It’s better news than it could have been,” said Dennis vanEngelsdorp, a University of Maryland entomology professor who led a survey of bee populations that reported a loss of 23 percent of bee colonies — less than 30 percent, the average from 2005 to 2013. “It’s not good news.”

Though scientists cited progress in battles against an Asian mite that has killed many an American bee, they had words of caution.

“One year does not make a trend,” Jeff Pettis, a co-author of the survey who heads

the federal government’s bee research laboratory in Beltsville, Md., told [the New York Times](#).

Turns out Pettis was right. VanEngelsdorp and other researchers at [the Bee Informed Partnership](#), affiliated with the Department of Agriculture, just announced more than 40 percent of honeybee hives died this past year, [as the Associated Press reported](#). The number is preliminary, but is [the second-highest annual loss recorded to date](#).

“What we’re seeing with this bee problem is just a loud signal that there’s some bad things happening with our agro-ecosystems,” study co-author Keith Delaplane of the University of Georgia [told the AP](#). “We just happen to notice it with the honeybee because they are so easy to count.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture continues to research problems facing honey bees and pollinators. (U.S. Department of Agriculture)

The cause of the bees' demise was not noted, but researchers said colony collapse disorder — which causes mass deaths of the bees [for reasons not fully understood](#) — was not necessarily the culprit. As the Times [put it last year](#): “What has emerged is a complex set of pressures on managed and wild bee populations that includes disease, a parasite known as the varroa mite, pesticides, extreme weather and poor nutrition tied to a loss of forage plants.”

“The winter loss numbers are more hopeful especially combined with the fact that we have not seen much sign of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) for several years, but such high colony losses in the summer and year-round remain very troubling,” Pettis said [in a statement](#). [He likened summer deaths](#) to having “a higher rate of flu deaths in the summer than winter.”

“If beekeepers are going to meet the growing demand for pollination services, researchers need to find better answers to the host of stresses that lead to both winter and summer colony losses,” [he said](#).

VanEngelsdorp called the situation “unheard of.”

“We traditionally thought of winter losses as a more important indicator of health, because surviving the cold winter months is a crucial test for any bee colony,” [vanEngelsdorp said](#). “But we now know that summer loss rates are significant too. This is especially so for commercial beekeepers, who are now losing more colonies in the summertime compared to the winter.”

The state worst affected was [Oklahoma](#), which lost more than 60 percent of its hives. Hawaii escaped relatively unscathed, losing less than 14 percent.

“Most of the major commercial beekeepers get a dark panicked look in their eyes when they discuss these losses and what it means to their businesses,” [said](#) Pennsylvania State University entomology professor Diana Cox-Foster, who didn't participate in the survey. Her state lost more than 60 percent of its colonies. [The USDA estimated](#) that honeybees add more than \$15 billion to the value of the country's crops per year.

“If losses continue at the 33 percent level, it could threaten the economic viability of the bee pollination industry,” [the department said](#). “Honey bees would not disappear entirely, but the cost of honey bee pollination services would rise, and those increased costs would ultimately be passed on to consumers through higher food costs. Now is the time for research into the cause and treatment of CCD before CCD becomes an agricultural crisis.”

The survey included [almost 400,000 colonies](#) — more than 15 percent of the nation's total. A researcher at Bayer, who makes pesticides [linked to colony collapse disorder](#), said the losses were “[not unusual](#).” Indeed, though losses are up, so were the total number of bee colonies. But since beekeepers split surviving hives to repopulate, stressing bees out, VanEngelsdorp said an increasing number of hives “doesn't mean bee health is improving or stable,” as [the AP put it](#).

Justin Wm. Porter - New York Post

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)

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.

January: Jason Long, WSU, speaking on cold winter storage.

August: "Inside the Hive" Dr.Najera

February: Megan Taylor, WSU speaking on Old World Bee Geneteics

September: Time to renew membership.

March: Tim Lawrence, WSU

October: TBA

April: Package Introduction

November: TBA

May: Preventing Swarms and Splits

December: Christmas Party

June: Pests and Treatments

July: Dr. Caron

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 is are refreshments available.