



Beeing
Prepared

Cowlitz Beekeepers Association Newsletter

Dedicated to Preserving the Honeybee through Community Action, Awareness and Education
October 2021

Next Meeting:

Where: In person at the Sons of Norway Building (224 Catlin St. Kelso WA. 98626 or nearly any place Via Zoom

When: November 17, 2022, 7:00 PM

Speaker: Eli Ocheltree

Topic: The History of Beekeeping

If you live in Cowlitz county or the surrounding area and find honeybees fascinating, then you should consider joining us. Reach us on Facebook by searching for Cowlitz Beekeepers Association or check out our website at:

Association Officers and Board:

Ken Curtis, President (360) 261-2795 or cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com
Al Wilmoth, V. President (815) 391-4089
Zenobia Scott, Secretary (360) 425-2314
Zebscott56@gmail.com
Barbara Skreen, Treasurer
Ray Davis, Trustee (360) 431-2882
Dave Scott, Trustee (360) 425-2314
Kathy Scott, Trustee (360) 601-0393
Elizabeth Peters, Trustee (360) 241-6954

Handmade Proud:

Looking to buy new woodenware at reasonable prices?

- Bottom Boards - Top Covers - Inner Covers - Hive Boxes and more...

Contact **Gerry Herren**
Ph. (360) 355-0051
Swarmchaser40@gmail.com

Infested and Diseased Hives

Pest management, disease prevention, a good nutritional program, and equipment are needed to keep a hive healthy.

Varroa mites are the number one pest for bee colonies. They are parasites on adult bees and feed on developing brood. Infested colonies produce less honey and are more likely to develop secondary infections. Monitoring varroa numbers and treating when an infestation is detected is beneficial, especially as we enter the winter months to keep winter mite counts low.

Wax Moths can cause damage to comb and honey stores resulting in the death of brood. Wax moths and larvae are easily killed by freezing temperatures.

Diseases

Bacterial diseases can be hard to diagnose, but it is important that a beekeeper familiarize themselves with possible signs of their presence within a colony.

American Foulbrood (AFB) is a bacterial brood disease that results in infection of young larvae with the *Paenibacillus larvae* (Penn State Extension, 2019).

Signs of AFB are a sour odor, and capped cells may be sunken in. AFB remains on equipment for up to 70 years.

European Foulbrood

Is also a bacterium and may exist in a hive for several years and infects young larvae before cells are capped. Infected honeybee larvae can appear yellow and then brown, and there may be a sour odor.

If you suspect an infection with either AFB or EFB don't be afraid to ask for help with the diagnosis from a fellow beekeeper or a qualified expert.

Elections for board members and officers will be held at the November meeting. Anyone can nominate themselves or a fellow club member that is interested in any board position.

Out in the Bee Yard

Bill Holmes

I have this equipment that was gifted from a couple now former beekeepers. Hive bodies, queen excluders, bottom boards, top etc. Some rough, others only lightly used. It's free, it's in Cathlamet, 541-714-5301.

In May I put Swedish sponges soaked in glycerin and Oxalic acid into hives. In early August those hives all had low mite counts. I talked to a beekeeper at the club picnic who also placed the pads in his hives. He was very impressed with the lack of mite buildup during the summer. This treatment is a game changer. I don't know if anyone has yet tried it during fall or winter, but it sure works during the summer. And the bees don't show any ill effects from the application. The only problem is you have to mix it up yourself since there isn't a retail product available.

By mid-November there likely won't be any brood in my hives. This is the perfect time to use the Oxalic acid vaporizer. The mites that survived my late summer thymol treatments will be erased and the bees should be good to go until May. The label calls for 1 gram of OA per hive body. I usually carry 2 deeps through winter so that would be 2 grams or ½ teaspoon. However, research has shown concentrations greater than that are more effective while not impacting bees. So, for better results I double or triple the amount of OA over the label.

If your hives are light and you find that feeding is necessary, you can feed with either refined beet or granulated cane sugar which are both pure sucrose and are safe and nutritionally equivalent. It is too late to feed syrup even using in hive feeders. You don't want to add any moisture into the hive which could lead to mold. Your options now are fondant (which you can buy from bee suppliers or make yourself), make a no-cook sugar board, or follow the mountain camp method.

To make a **No-Cook Candy Board** I first build a spacer/rim board a little less than 3" tall. Then I attach ½" hardware cloth leaving about a ¼" space on the bottom so it gives the bees plenty of room to move around underneath.

Then I mix 10 pounds of sugar with 2 cups of water. I find it easier to stir if I make two 5-pound mixes in the wife's Kitchen aid mixer.

Next, I put a cut-to-fit ¼ piece of plywood below the screen so the sugar doesn't fall out while I pack it and let dry. Alternatively, you could cover the ½" screen with newspaper. The plywood does not go in the hive.



feeders,
text me

most of my
long-time



Dump the mixture onto the screen lightly packing and smoothing it using a large spoon or your hand, leaving a small opening so the bees can access the top if they desire.

The **mountain camp** system is fast and easy. Grab a sheet of newspaper and lay it over the top bars, add a feeder/spacer rim, dump dry granulated sugar on top of the paper. Moisture from the bees' respiration condenses on the sugar and makes it palatable for the bees.



Do Bee Clubs Help

Ken Curtis

One day as I was sitting at home watching tv I saw an advertisement about the decline of pollinators. I decided that I wanted to do my part, so I began searching the internet for bees and bee supplies. I bought two NUCs, two hives, a hive tool, smoker, and gloves to begin beekeeping.

I had all winter to wait for my bees. Unfortunately, I had no knowledge, and much of the information on the internet about beekeeping wasn't local information. During my research the recommendation to join a bee club seemed to keep being mentioned, but I didn't think it was relevant in my case.

It's April, the NUCs are set to arrive on Saturday, but am I ready. I don't know any beekeepers near me, in fact I didn't even know if there were any beekeepers near me at all that I can ask for advice. By May my hives look good to me. It seemed like more bees were flying every day. one day I go out to my hive and find thousands of dead bees on the ground in front of the hives. What to do. Back to the internet. About a hundred different reasons and possible solutions. I feel like my bees are doomed. Somehow, I kept the bees alive until October when they absconded.

I'm now wondering if there are any beekeeping clubs near me should I just sell my hives. I did find honeybees to be fascinating. The search for a local beekeeping club began, and low and behold there is a club within ten miles of my house, but they are not having meetings until next month because it's winter. I was still not sure if I wanted to continue keeping bees and was hoping to get some insight from an experienced beekeeper.

I decided to save the club's contact information and go to check out the next meeting. The night of the meeting I walked through the doors confident that I could learn from tried-and-true local beekeeping practices. As I watch a presentation, I overheard a couple of beekeepers discussing what they do in their bee yards. As the presentation continues, I hear others whispering about beekeeping wishing I could hear what they were saying. After the meeting I introduced myself to the speaker, a local beekeeper and was amazed that he was willing to explain why me bees might have absconded in the fall. I immediately paid a very small membership fee that night.

Since joining a bee club, I began attending meetings regularly until the covid-19 pandemic suddenly interrupted meetings. The club president was resilient and turned to Zoom for online meetings. Finally, I get to converse with other beekeepers. At first, I thought online meetings were awesome. I mean I can now talk to other beekeepers from my kitchen table, and the diversity of online speakers was refreshing.

However, there was something missing. I missed the face-to-face interactions. I'm sure my family missed the time I had someone beside them to talk about my bees, bee yard, etc. Basically, they got a break from my infatuation with bees.

This year I decided to learn how to rear my own queens. I mentioned this to a beekeeper in a monthly club meeting, and he provided me with information about an upcoming queen rearing workshop, which led me to becoming a member of a queen rearing club.

So why do we have bee clubs. We have bee clubs to rescue the new beekeeper, allow face-to-face and online interactions between beekeepers, to gain invaluable techniques from local beekeepers, etc. We can also learn new skills such as queen rearing.

I prefer face-to-face interactions because interactions between beekeepers before and after the meetings provide valuable information that is not available online. However, the availability of hybrid meetings also appeals to me. The pool of speakers willing to share their expertise via Zoom meetings has increased.

The answer to the question "Do Bee Clubs Help," It's up to you to decide, but for me bee clubs have become an invaluable tool in my beekeeping toolbox.

**Cowlitz Beekeepers Association
Monthly Meeting
October 20, 2022**

Meeting came to order at 7:06 p.m.

In attendance 12, via Zoom 7, total 19.

Guest Speaker was Dewey Caron. He talked about "Preparing for Winter". The 8th edition of the Honey Bee Health Coalition is available, and it is downloadable. You can contact him at dmccaron@udel.edu

A big thank you to John and Terri Horness for bringing the raffle prizes this month, and to Barbara Skreen for the treats!

If we are to continue having raffles at our meetings, your donations would be appreciated. They can be bee related or not, it is up to you. Thank you.

We have a new Bee Club Librarian! Thank you, Elizabeth Peters, for volunteering to be our librarian. If you want to check out a book, please contact her.

Elections are coming up at our November 2022 meeting. All positions are available for nominations. Please contact one of our officers or board members with your nominations for the positions.

Our next meeting is November 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sons of Norway Building in Kelso, WA.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes taken by,
Zenobia Scott, Secretary

Executive Board Meeting

November 3, 2022

Meeting came to order at 7:15 p.m.

All Board Members were in attendance.

* Elections

Elections will be held at our regular monthly meeting, November 17, 2022. Ballots will be available at the meeting. Please come and vote.

Nominations:

Current officers are willing to continue serving, however, nominations are welcome.

President: Ken Curtis
Treasurer: Barbara Skreen

Vice President: Al Wilmoth
Secretary: Zenobia

Trustees: 4 are needed
Ray Davis, Elizabeth Peters, Anna Pitkin, David Scott, Jan Wilson

Kathy Scott is stepping down from serving as a Trustee. Thank you for your faithful service.

More nominations will be taken at our meeting on November 17, 2022, before voting takes place.

* Facility Rental

It's time to either renew the rental on the current building we are using or see if there is someplace else, we would like to be in 2023. We will be looking into our present residence, Sons of Norway, also Lower Columbia College, and WSU Extension Building to name a few.

* Annual Christmas Party

Talked about continuing our annual Christmas Party this year and it was agreed to have our annual Christmas Party at the Sons of Norway building on Thursday, December 15, 2022 in place of our monthly meeting. Will check to see if we could start an hour earlier, 6:00 p.m., that night. Hopefully we will have that information by our meeting this month.

* Zoom

Discussed whether we should continue using Zoom. We agreed it would be beneficial to do so. We will renew our account for the coming year, 2023.

* WASBA Membership

WASBA membership will be renewed for the coming year, 2023.

* Nuc Sale

Agreed to have another annual Nuc Sale in 2023. More information to follow next year. Talked about getting an electronic receipt for Nuc orders and then an electronic receipt for payments. Also talked about getting that information to the Officers of the club.

* Membership and Membership Renewal

Membership and membership renewal will begin January 2023. It will continue to be \$24.00. Renewal will begin at our regular meeting on January 19, 2023. Talked about getting the membership information to the Officers of the club.

* Speakers/Presentations for the coming year.

Discussed getting speakers and presenters for our club meetings. Also talked about having our own members volunteering to do a presentation at our meetings. Our club has a lot of experienced beekeepers in it. Example of a presentation: Ken Curtis and Ray Davis doing a presentation on making Oxalic Acid Pads for the beekeepers beehive. We could also break out into Cell Groups to discuss what has or has not been working in the bee yards or apiaries.

* Other areas of discussion

We could have a honey extracting day

Continue our Beekeepers Field Day

Monthly raffle - to continue having a raffle, prizes are needed, the prizes can be bee related or not. In the past we have had eggs raffled, jewelry, flowers, pictures, burlap, beekeeper supplies, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Minutes taken by,
Zenobia Scott, Secretary