

The Voice of  
Professional and  
Backyard  
Beekeeping

Cowlitz  
Beekeepers  
Association  
Newsletter

Dedicated to Preserving the Honey Bee through Community Action, Awareness and Education

June 2021

Issue 6

## **Next Meeting: January 19<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Where:** Anywhere worldwide on your computer via Zoom or in person at the “Sons of Norway” building, 224 Catlin St. Kelso WA.

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:

<https://cowlitzbeekeeping.wixsite.com/website>

### **Association Officers and Board:**

Ken Curtis President (360)261-2795 or [cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com)  
Al Wilmoth, V. President (360)673-8787  
Zenobia Scott, Secretary (360) 425-2314  
[Zebscott56@gmail.com](mailto:Zebscott56@gmail.com)  
Barbara Skreen, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Peters, Trustee (360)241-6954  
Dave Scott, Trustee (360) 425-2314  
Kathy Scott, Trustee (360) 601-0393  
Ray Davis, Trustee (360) 431-2882

### **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](mailto:Swarmchaser40@gmail.com)

### **Holiday Party**

It's that time of year again. Bees are all snug in their hives for the winter except for warmer days when they might be out on cleaning flights. December is the month when the Cowlitz Beekeepers Association will not be holding a monthly meeting. However, with covid restrictions easing we will be having a get together to celebrate the holiday season. This year the holiday celebration will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8pm at the Sons of Norway building. The get together is a potluck event so please feel free to bring a side dish and/or snack or desert. Ham and beverages will be supplied. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the premises. There will be a white elephant gift exchange, which is always a lot fun. Looking forward to seeing a great turnout with all of the beekeeping club members and their families. This will be the final time we will get together to share our experiences from 2022, and visit in a less formal manner than monthly meetings. Kathy Scott is resigning from the board in 2023, so this will also be a great time to thank her for her dedication the CBA.

**I hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving. Have a great winter holiday season. Enjoy the winter have an enjoyable holiday get together.**

## Beekeeping in the Winter

Ken Curtis

The weather is becoming cold and wet. Snow might even fall. December might be a time to prepare for the holidays, stay inside on rainy and/or snowy days Football season is in full swing. College bowl games are upon us, the World Cup is on for soccer (Futball) fans. But, what about bees. Bees are clustered inside of hives so what should a beekeeper do?

December is a good time to perform one last oxalic acid treatment as there is a minimal amount of capped brood in hives. December is also a good time to inspect hive components. Are any hive parts in disrepair? Winter is a good time to assemble any hive components that may need to be repaired. Although, now is not the time to open hives it is a great time to prepare for spring. By now entrance reducers and mouse guards should be on hives. Hives should be wrapped if that is part of a beekeeper's preparation for winter. Quilt boxes should be on if a beekeeper chooses to use them.

Winter is a time to prepare for spring. Do colonies have enough winter stores, or do you need to feed? Are your beekeeping records up-to-date? Are bottom boards due to be replaced in the spring? Are hive bodies due to be repaired or replaced when the weather warms up? Are inner and outer covers serviceable? Do you plan on adding more hives or downsizing next year? Do any frames and/or foundations need to be replaced? This is the time of year to build or purchase replacement parts so you are prepared when spring arrives. No matter what your beekeeping plans are, winter is the time to prepare for spring.

Cowlitz Beekeepers Association  
Monthly Meeting  
November 17, 2022

Meeting came to order at 6:58 p.m.

Attendance: in person 16, Zoom 9, total 25.

Guest Speaker was Eli Ocheltree. Her subject was "The History of Beekeeping". How Eva Crane became an International Beekeeper and her books that gave us a look at beekeeping from the Stone Age to present. That beekeeping is the same and yet different from the past.

Presentation by Don Cloke on helping keep water from the front of the hive by using flashing to make a porch roof over the entrance. Also, winterizing hives by wrapping tar paper around the hive.

We will be having a Christmas Party Potluck this year! Yeah, it has been a couple years since our last one because of COVID. It will be held Thursday, December 15, 2022 at the Sons of Norway Building in lieu of our normal monthly meeting. The Christmas potluck will start an hour earlier than our normal meeting time, 6:00 p.m. We will also have a White Elephant gift exchange for those who want to participate. Ham and beverages will be provided and participants can bring a side dish, salad, dessert, or a combination of your choice. The Sons of Norway building is a non-alcohol

establishment. Let's honor their request by not bringing or consuming alcoholic beverages on the premises. Thank you. See you there!!

We will have a Nuc sale in 2023. More information will be provided next year when we get it.

Annual elections - Nominations were taken at our meeting for Officers and Trustees. Trustee Kathy Scott is stepping down from her position at the end of December. The nominations for Trustee were Anna Pitken and Jan Wilson. Jan Wilson respectfully declined her nomination for Trustee. No nominations were made for officers. A motion was made to keep the present officers and trustees and add Anna Pitkin as a trustee. The motion was seconded and past. Our Officers and Trustees for 2023 will be:

President: Ken Curtis  
Vice President: Al Wilmoth  
Secretary: Zenobia Scott  
Treasurer: Barbara Skreen

Trustees: Ray Davis, Elizabeth Peters, Anna Pitkin and David Scott

Congratulations to the Executive Board of 2023! Thank you Kathy for your faithful service.

Thank you, Don for your presentation at our meeting. Thank you Susan Brookfield, Zenobia Scott and Barbara Skreen for providing treats at our meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Minutes taken by,  
Zenobia Scott, Secretary

### **Mikal Boucher**

Last meeting there were a few questions on quilt boxes and feeding. I took some pictures when I was getting my hives set up so I wrote a little something up. I am no writer but you can use it for the next newsletter if you want. maybe you can modify it to sound better?

Also made an OA vaporizer that I think works well as my wand decided not to work for me.

### **Quilt Box**

I built some out of scrap wood to give a them a shot last year. Do you need a quilt box? I don't know but I had a better success rate over wintering bees last year and I will use them again this year. I think what I liked most about them is it makes it easier to do a quick check to make sure they are still alive and provides an easy way for me to feed them.

Built them 4 inches tall with a ½ in hole on one end. Hole drilled at a slight angle up so water can't flow into the hive. This gives the bees a means of escape if they cannot exit from the bottom board due to deep snow or dead bees blocking the entrance.



Placed 3 supports on the bottom  $\sim 3/8^{\text{th}}$  of an inch thick to give bees space and support  $1/4$  wire mesh screen. Around the hole there is a 3 walls 2" tall. This allows the bees to escape. The wall is to prevent the hole from getting blocked from wood shavings.



Burlap sack used to prevent wood chips from falling down into the hive and also will soak up any moisture and prevent it from raining back down on the bees.



Wood chips on top of the burlap to soak up more moisture and add a little insulation.



2 inch thick foam insulation added on top. Bees can still get out as it sits on top of the escape hole walls.



Quilt box is placed on top of the hive below the inner cover. White box in picture. Hole is on other side in this picture.



I can open this up with minimal disturbance to the bees to check on the colony. Dead outs can be taken care of sooner to prevent other living things from moving and destroying comb or mold from growing. I can easily fold back the burlap and add sugar throughout the winter for emergency feeding.





## Sugar cakes

Disposable aluminum trays. I believe they are 5x7 ½ inches.

2 heaping cups of Sugar

½ a shot of water. A little water goes a long way

Add to a bowl and mix until sugar is damp and will stick together.

Add sugar back to tray and pack it down using a spatula or back of a spoon.

Leave on counter to dry out and form a brick. I placed in a cooling oven with the door cracked to speed up the drying process.

Once dry you can remove from the tray and give to bees.

Reuse the tray and make another batch today so they are ready when your bees need it.

Left over sugar can be used to make your 2:1 sugar come spring.



## Sugar cakes

Disposable aluminum trays. I believe they are 5x7 ½ inches.

2 heaping cups of Sugar

½ a shot of water. A little water goes a long way

Add to a bowl and mix until sugar is damp and will stick together.

Add sugar back to tray and pack it down using a spatula or back of a spoon.

Leave on counter to dry out and form a brick. I placed in a cooling oven with the door cracked to speed up the drying process.

Once dry you can remove from the tray and give to bees.

Reuse the tray and make another batch today so they are ready when your bees need it.

Left over sugar can be used to make your 2:1 sugar come spring.



## Oxalic Acid Vapor

Went to treat my hives and My OA vaporizer wand quit working on me. It was not getting hot enough to boil and vaporize the OA. But I wanted to treat my bees now instead of ordering a new one. Found this method and figured I would give it a try. I get a good vapor flow and the nice thing with this one is I don't have to haul a battery around the apiary. It is also pretty inexpensive and quick to use. Down side is you have a torch near the hive.



Drill a hole in the back of your bottom board big enough to side the tube into. Block off the entrance with a old towel to prevent the OA and bees from exiting. Close off the screen bottom board if you can. Use torch to heat up the vaporizer. 1<sup>st</sup> one will take ~ 2 min to complete. Make sure you test outside the hive first so you get an idea of how long it will take to finish. Some OA will crystalize in the tube and the vaper will not flow as well so make sure to heat up the tube as well and in-between hives to clear it out. Use a screw/bolt to plug the hold when done. Can easily remove screw when you go to treat next time.

4 inch x ¾ inch pipe

Drill hole ¼ of the way down and threaded a 1/8 metal pipe into it.

Caps on both ends.

The cap on the bottom (longer portion of the pipe) is secured tight. The one on top is left lose so you can add OA.

¼ teaspoon of OA per brood box.

#### Bill Holmes

For quilt box article says 1/4" mesh but it looks like 1/2 which allows bees to pass through which is important when feeding. If you don't need them going through then 1/4 is ok. On the gun, oa decomposes over 375f. Retail products have temp regulation built in. I really don't know if you could overheat with your setup or what the impact on the bees and mites would be. But there are plenty of people doing this. Bill

Hornet Herald 22.11

Cichorz, Cassie (AGR)

## **NORTHERN GIANT HORNET STAKEHOLDER UPDATE #22.11 – DECEMBER 6, 2022**

### **CITIZEN SCIENTIST TRAPPING UPDATE**

#### **Citizen Scientist Trapping Ends**

Citizen trapping ended November 30! You can empty your trap(s) and process the last collection. You do not need to rebait any traps until next year!

#### **Recycle or Keep Bottles for Next Year**

Please recycle your bottles or keep them for next year. We will be revisiting our citizen scientist trapping program over the winter and if you would like to participate next year, the bottle(s) may come in handy.

#### **Evaluation Out Now**

Whether you participated in citizen scientist trapping for a week or several months, we would like to hear from you about your experience. We are conducting a survey



of our citizen scientist trappers. Your feedback will help shape our citizen scientist trapping program next year. [Click here to take the short survey.](#)

## NEW DETECTIONS

There have been no new confirmed sightings of northern giant hornets reported to WSDA in Washington. You can view current detection and trapping data online by visiting the [2022 Northern Giant Hornet Public Dashboard](#).

It is still important to be on the lookout: dead or alive, AGH reports are helpful. Any confirmed report can provide detection points to help guide trapping efforts and collected hornets can aid in future research. If you think you see a hornet, take a picture and report your sighting! Report online at [agr.wa.gov/hornets](http://agr.wa.gov/hornets).

## UPDATE FROM CANADA

The B.C. government is continually engaging the public to report potential sightings. Throughout the season their team has monitored traps throughout the end of the season. There have been no new detections.

## NEW DETECTIONS

### Small Berry Conference

WSDA is educating the public on the hornet through presentations and attending conferences. In November the hornet went to the Small Berry Conference, Pest Management Association Conference, The Wildlife Society Conference, Pacific Northwest Vegetable Conference, and Washington State Grape Society Conference. If you are interested in a presentation contact Cassie Cichorz at [ccichorz@agr.wa.gov](mailto:ccichorz@agr.wa.gov).

## STAY CONNECTED

WSDA is dedicated to working with the public to provide information on Northern giant hornets.

- View [past news releases, blogs, and Pest Program updates](#) about Northern giant hornet.
- Join the [Northern giant hornet Facebook group](#).
- Join the [Pest Program email listserv](#).
- Follow WSDA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).

Cassie Cichorz

Outreach & Education Specialist

Plant Protection-Pest Program | WSDA

Email: [ccichorz@agr.wa.gov](mailto:ccichorz@agr.wa.gov) Cell: 360.688.0560