

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:

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

When: June 16, 2022

Speaker: Ted McFall

Topic: Giant Asian Murder Hornet



Association Officers and Board:

Ken Curtis, President (360)261-2795 or cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com
Al Wilmoth, V. President (360) 673-8787
Zenobia Scott, Secretary (360) 425-2314
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

Field Day This year the CBA field day will be held on June 11 at 12:00 p.m., weather permitting. Field day is an excellent opportunity for new beekeepers to gain knowledge from experienced beekeepers as well as an opportunity for more experienced beekeepers to brush up on their skills and learn new skills and techniques. If you plan to attend, contact David Scott at 360-425-2314. Please leave your name and phone number in case field day needs to be rescheduled.

What should you do for bees in June?



Beekeeping in June is a very busy time for beekeepers. Inspections to determine the overall health of each colony need to be performed regularly. Identifying the queen and adding honey supers need to be done if necessary. If a beekeeper plans on harvesting honey June is a good time to check on the status of containers in which the honey will be stored, as well as making sure the right tools for extracting the honey are on hand, and in working order. Mite checks need to be performed, and hives should be treated if necessary. Beekeepers may need to split hives to prevent colonies from swarming.

Our Zoom Meetings

Zoom video conferencing is celebrated for its ease of use, high quality video and audio, and collaboration facilities such as text

chat and screen sharing. All you need is a computer or smartphone with speakers, a microphone, and a camera. Join us at our next meeting. If you are not a member, but would like to attend a meeting request the code to cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com

Swarm season is here. This swarm was rehomed from Ridgefield Washington to an apiary in Rainier, OR on 05/25/2022. It contained approximately 15 - 20 pounds of bees. I had a bee jacket and a pair of gloves in the car but, no other equipment was available. I just happened to be passing through Ridgefield when the swarm call was received. The homeowner had a couple of cardboard boxes on hand so that is what was used to collect the bees. Not the best option, but it was the only option available at the time. By the time I arrived at home the top of the box was covered with bees that had gotten out in the back seat of the wife's car even though the box was taped shut. Fortunately, the queen was in the box so all, but all but a few bees remained on top of the box to remain close to the queen. Believe me my wife was not too happy the next morning when she was stung three times on her way to work, but a very large swarm was rehomed in my apiary. **If you would like to get free bees and increase the chance that the bees survive the winter get your name on the swarm list.** The swarm list is a member only list. I get calls from people in need of a swarm removal. I then contact CBA members who are the swarm list via text message. If you would like to get on the swarm list, text your contact information to Ken Curtis (360)261-2795. Some swarms are simple to collect, but others can be quite challenging. Be prepared. Watch swarm removal videos and have your tools and equipment ready to go. You never know when a swarm call will come.



Good Beekeeping Records Matter

Article assembled from Carolina Honey bees, Beekeeping for Newbies, and my own thoughts

When you start beekeeping, recording information may seem overly burdensome. After all, you've only got one or two hives. How much could you possibly have to track? No need to write anything down, right? Maybe.

Keeping records is a habit that's much easier to start when your apiary is small and your goals are simple. Record keeping serves as both a learning tool and a management tool. Keeping records will help you learn about beekeeping in general and your bees.

Good hive notes promote a better understanding of the dynamics of the hive. Record keeping can really help you learn about your bees and manage your colonies more efficiently. Track anything that is important to you in the format that works best for you. Over time you will have a written account of hive inspections and beekeeping techniques that worked! As well as plans that failed miserably.

While you may think you will be able to keep track of the date when you last inspected your hive or which hive you saw the queen, likely you'll forget by the time you need to know.

It is important to have an inspection plan before opening the hive. This is difficult to do if you are not 100% certain of colony conditions from the last visit.

Anytime you see something that concerns you, make a note to recheck soon. A quick glance at your notes will prepare you for today's inspection.

Hive Records Facilitate Quick Inspections

Review your notes before going to the bee yard. You may just need to take a quick look inside. A strong healthy colony does not need a deep inspection often. Reviewing our notes gives us an idea of what to expect. Did this bee colony have a possible problem during the last inspection? Did you notice a problem with equipment? Do I need to have an extra frame on hand?

Creating Your Own Hive Inspection Format

Your hive inspections sheets can be as simple or as complicated as you wish. Over time, a beekeeper learns which factors of hive management are most important. However, there are some basic hive conditions that every beekeeper needs to know.

1. Does the colony have a Queen?
2. Brood Pattern – Is the queen laying a good pattern of worker brood?
3. Is the colony bringing in pollen and nectar?
4. Any signs of pests or disease?
5. Has the colony been tested and/or treated for mites? When? With What?

Technology has arrived in the world of beekeeping. Many beekeepers enjoy using online hive management software or apps on their phones. Electronic records have the advantage that you can add pictures or even video.

All you really need is just a notebook or journal. All the major supply houses have preprinted hive inspection books. A google search of honeybee inspection record templates will return enough hits for you to settle on a format that might work for you. But you may not want a 2-page form of check boxes for every hive on every trip to the colonies. That may work for you, but they waste a lot of paper with things you didn't look at during an inspection. Taking a digital voice recorder to the bee yard allows recording notes that can then be transcribed into a journal.

Another important benefit of good records is being able to Participate in surveys. Various agencies and not-for-profit groups conduct surveys on survival and beekeeping practices. The more people that help fill the databases the better our understanding of best practices to keep our colonies strong and healthy.

Cowlitz Beekeepers Association

Monthly Meeting
May 19, 2022

Meeting came to order at 7:05 p.m.

17 in attendance. No Zoom available for tonight's meeting.

Introduction of our new Vice President, Al Wilmoth. He gave a little history of his beekeeping experience.

David Scott gave a short presentation on making your own decapping tub for less than \$30.00.

Our main presentation was a PowerPoint on the Queen Bee by Ken Curtis, facilitated by Al Wilmoth. There was a question-and-answer time after the presentation.

Upcoming events:

Beekeepers Field Day, June 11, 2022, at 12:00 p.m., weather permitting. If planning on attending, please contact David Scott at 360-425-2314. Leave your name and phone number in case the Field Day needs to be postponed due to the weather and to know how many will be attending. You will also be contacted with the address to the Scott Out Apiary. Thank you.

Next meeting will be June 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Go Fourth Parade, July 4, 2022. Need volunteers to bring in Bit-O-Honey candy to distribute along the parade route, people to discuss how to decorate the float according to this year's theme, and those to participate in the parade. Please contact Kathy Scott at 360-601-0393.

Cowlitz County Fair, July 27-2022. Will have a sign-up sheet available at our June meeting for volunteers to man the display booth and those who would like to help set up our display.

Meeting adjourned by 8:20 p.m.

Minutes taken by,
Zenobia Scott, Secretary