

The Voice of
Professional
Beekeeping

Cowlitz Beekeepers Association Newsletter

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

February 2022

Issue 2

Next Meeting:

Where: Anywhere worldwide on your computer via Zoom

When: February 17, 2022 7:00 PM

Speaker: Kelly Kulhanek, Ph.D.

If you live in Longview or the surrounding area and already keep bees, intend to do so or are simply interested in this fascinating hobby, Cowlitz Beekeepers Association is the association for you. Even if you don't keep bees, joining us will help support our cause, our community action and

Due to the arrival of the Omicron variant of Covid 19 and its unknown impacts, our February meeting will be zoom only. Cowlitz Beekeepers Association will continue to work towards having in-person meetings in these troubling times, ensuring the safety of members and their families.

Association Officers and Board:

John Holmes, President (360) 355-7795 or
cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com

Ken Curtis, V. President (360) 261-2795

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Barbara Skreen, Treasurer

Ray Davis, Trustee (503) 556-9784

Elizabeth Peters, Trustee (360) 241-6954

Dave Scott, Trustee (360) 425-2314

Kathy Scott, Trustee (360) 601-0393

Kelly Kulhanek, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Researcher
Hopkins Lab, Washington State University

Title: Best Management Practices for Small Apiaries

Kelly is a postdoctoral researcher at the WSU Bee Program. She studies beekeeping management practices including indoor storage of colonies and new approaches for Varroa management. Her talk will cover work from her PhD on data-driven best management practices for small apiaries.



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


BEEKEEPERS CALENDAR OF SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

February

Suggested Activities for Beekeepers in the Coastal range from Washington, Oregon and California...

The queen is starting to lay and hungry brood will deplete honey stores faster than in December and January. If you need to get a visual of your bees, you can risk a quick peek if it is over 50-degrees, calm, and not raining. But don't remove any frames and don't let this interruption last longer than 15 seconds. Wait to remove frames until it's over 58 degrees. But, if you suspect a problem don't wait, check it out!

 Keep the hive entrances clear. Brush away any dead bees to ensure adequate ventilation and egress.

 Check hive weight frequently. They can run out of food rapidly. If hives are getting light you may need to start feeding. Don't give them liquid yet, use solid sugar.

2022 Membership Dues

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

click this link, fill out the form, submit. Then send your check to the listed address. Thank you for supporting Cowlitz

Beekeepers Association

Honeybee Diseases workshop

Columbia County Oregon Beekeepers are hosting Carolyn Breece from the OSU Honeybee Lab. Carolyn is bringing frames where you can see, manipulate, and even smell what honeybee diseases are. This is a rare opportunity.

The workshop is free but spaces are limited so please register by emailing the club columbiacountyoregonbeekeepers@gmail.com : your name, phone and email. You will be contacted if you have a place and will be given where the event is taking place.

March 19th from 1-3 pm, For those who register, bring a lunch from noon to one and we can visit while our speaker sets up.



2021 Asian Giant Hornet Review

Three nests were eradicated, all were found to be genetically related to the single nest that was found and destroyed in 2020. WSDA additionally confirmed 14 detections. Four of these detections were caught in WSDA traps, six of the detections were reported by the public, and another four were netted upon site visits. 916 bottle traps were regularly serviced.

The first positive detection of Asian giant hornet in June 2021 came from a citizen report in Snohomish County. This deceased hornet appeared unrelated to the prior introductions in Canada and Whatcom County. WSDA responded by trapping and encouraging public reports and citizen scientist trapping. No additional hornets were confirmed in Snohomish County.

British Columbia's 2021 survey ended December 1, with the last traps being removed in the Fraser Valley along the Canada-US border. The season yielded one deceased worker hornet caught in a Japanese beetle trap. The specimen is believed to have been in the trap since September and prior to the eradication of the last AGH nest in Whatcom County. The beetle trap was about 300 meters from the Canada-US border.

Since September 2019, not a single verified sighting or specimen collection has been reported on Vancouver Island despite surveillance and citizen participation throughout Nanaimo area and the Cowichan Valley. With the absence of the pest, BC plans to declare Vancouver Island (and Gulf Islands) free of AGH this coming spring. Bottle traps surveillance, citizen participation, and organizational support will resume in 2022. The main.

<https://cms.agr.wa.gov/WSDAKentico/Documents/PP/PestProgram/HornetHerald22-01.pdf>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/honey-bees/agh/asian-giant-hornet>

2022 Nuc Purchase Program

This year we will again be buying nucs from Foothills Honey Company in Colton, Oregon. These are 5 frame nucs. The cost is \$135 per nuc. You must be a current member of CBA or CCOBA to purchase.

There is more information about the nucs and ordering information at:

<https://cowlitzbeekeeping.wixsite.com/website/nuc-sale>

Fill out the form and send a check to the address shown at the bottom of the form. Nucs can be ordered now while payment may be made any time before March 15, 2022.



On warm winter days, heathers provide nectar

Washington State University Honey Bee Program moves to new location

The WSU Honey Bee Program was out growing its available space at the Pullman campus. The cost of building a new campus building became prohibitive, \$26 million and rising. When a facility became available in Othello and WSU received some large donations, it was decided to move the honey bees and honey extraction equipment. Currently the program attracts 15 to 30 undergraduates each year and maintains around 200 honey bee colonies for teaching and research purposes.

Out in the Bee Yard

Bill Holmes



I can't know why each of you keep bees. There's the honey but I don't believe that is enough though maybe it is. They are quite alien to us. We don't have anything in common because they don't think. They react to stimuli and do what they have always done according to some unbelievable programming packed into a tiny package. They are fascinating and complex. They have no affection for their beekeeper or the care they receive. There's no brain, no free will, no imagination, no partying, and no friends. Vacations, Christmas, or hooking a Chinook salmon hold no interest. They are care free without a worry in the world though. We study and observe, slice them, isolate their inner chemical composition, and run them through mazes just so we can know them enough to predict their behavior. Our research improves our knowledge but leave more questions unanswered so we rehypothosize and design another experiment, growing our knowledge by a millimeter in a trip to the moon. It's a joy to watch them keep to their individual tasks while we try our tricks to steer them into making our choices theirs. We are not bee masters, thankfully, that would be no fun. We are keepers who, though there are some best practices and generally accepted principles to follow, have a great deal of room to do things our way and be successful. We are free to make mistakes and try new things and witness the results in less than a year. That's what keeps me going and I know there will always be a new idea I can't wait to try.

Our December 2021 speaker discussed the OSU honey bee lab's recent research on the efficacy of oxalic acid vaporization at several application rates in controlling the *Varroa*. The label allows for 1 gram of OA to be applied per brood chamber. Their work, and others who have tested OA, found that 1 gram did not do an effective job of removing varroa. They found that 3 and even 4 grams was very effective. The label should be changed since negative effects are either nonexistent or negligible at those higher doses. But label changes take time so don't rush to be a scofflaw and apply at a more effective rate. In early December I used OA vapor on all my hives at the rate of 2 grams per box. That rate which is twice the label, is still, according to research only a slight improvement over 1 gram. However, it was done at a time of broodlessness so I believe it was still a good treatment. Then in early January I did half of the hives at 3 grams per box. It will be interesting to see how they look come spring.

As of Jan 29, all 11 hives are alive and flying on these last couple of 50 degree sunny days. I weighed each colony from the rear with my luggage scale. I've been doing this for several years, so I know what numbers get me concerned. Any hive falling below that number gets sugar. Syrup at 1:1 is not something that should be done until daytime temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees. Bees are not likely to break the cluster for watered down sugar but will go for solid sugar. So, for now it's either fondant, hard candy, no-cook candy board (which is the way I go), or straight from the bag of granulated sugar ala mountain camp method. If you are not familiar with any of those methods a google search will quickly help.

APIARY REGISTRATION

All beekeepers, backyard or for a business, need to register their hives each year. All money collected helps fund research projects with the Washington State University and other entities.

Registration is due by April 1 each year. Your current registration expires December 31.

RCW 15.60.250 Liability for acts or omissions.

A person who owns or operates an apiary, is a registered apiarist under RCW 15.60.021, and conforms to all applicable city, town, or county ordinances regarding beekeeping, is not liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions in connection with the keeping and maintaining of bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment, apiaries, and appliances, unless such acts or omissions constitute gross negligence or willful misconduct.

<https://cms.agr.wa.gov/WSDAKentico/Documents/Forms/current-6116-Beekeeper-BrokerRegistration.pdf>

