



The Voice of  
Professional  
Beekeeping

# Cowlitz Beekeepers Association Newsletter

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

January 2022

Issue 1

## **Next Meeting:**

**Where:** Anywhere worldwide on your computer via Zoom

**When:** January 20, 2022 7:00 PM

**Speaker:** Margo Buckles with co-presenter Mary Brodahl

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

## **Association Officers and Board:**

**John Holmes, President (360) 355-7795 or**  
[cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com)

**Ken Curtis, V. President (360) 261-2795**  
**Zenobia Scott, Secretary (360) 425-2314**  
[Zebscott56@gmail.com](mailto:Zebscott56@gmail.com)

**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**

Due to the arrival of the Omicron variant of Covid 19 and its unknown impacts, our January meeting will be zoom only and not include the planned hybrid meeting. Cowlitz Beekeepers Association will continue to work towards having in-person meetings in these troubling times, insuring the safety of members and their families.

**Margo Buckles** has been keeping bees for almost 10 years and hold a WASBA Journeyman certificate. She is both a member of the West Plains Beekeepers Association (Medical Lake, WA) and the Washington State Beekeepers Association. She has held the position of VP, Education for the West Plains Beekeepers Association for 4 terms, and has helped Ellen Miller (WASBA VP, Education) prepare and edit the WASBA Beginning Beekeeper and Apprentice manuals. She has given a number of presentations at West Plains' meetings and currently, with her husband, manage the WPBA apiary.

**Mary Brodahl** is currently the Secretary for the West Plains Beekeepers Association. She has also held the position of VP, Education for several terms. She has kept bees for many years in both Colorado and Washington. She currently keeps bees in St. John, WA - her bees are the flower pollinators for the town.

Their presentation, **Honey Bee Vision**

## 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

## 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

## It's Winter. Below are some things that will help your bees survive it.



Add an upper entrance to vent excess moisture.



Insulate the top of your hive. Use a quilt board or solid foam board 1" to 2" thick.



The entrance should also be periodically checked to make sure it is not plugged with dead bees. The undertaker bees don't carry bodies out very far when it is cold and they can pile up at the entrance.



Check hive weight, and if light feed solid sugar.



Keep entrance small so mice don't foul your hive.

## Cowlitz Beekeepers Association

### Monthly Meeting

December 16, 2021

Meeting came to order at 7:01 p.m.

There were 22 in attendance at our zoom meeting.

Our guest speaker was Ramesh Sagili from Oregon State University. He talked on "Honey Bee Nutrition: Pollen, Protein Supplement and Probiotics". If you would like to get in touch with him, you can reach him at [ramesh.sagili@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ramesh.sagili@oregonstate.edu) with your questions. We had a question and answer time after the presentation.

January 20, 2022 we will be conducting a hybrid meeting at the Sons of Norway building in West Kelso. Those who would like to attend can while others who prefer to attend via Zoom may attend that way. We will be starting at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

## Beekeeping Classes

### Bee Keepers Workshops

January 31, February 7, 14, and 21

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Cowlitz County Training Center, 1942 First Avenue in Longview

Designed to build basic beekeeping skills, the class covers topics including bee biology, equipment, seasonal management requirements, identification and management of pests, as well as honey removal and processing. The four-session course serves as an introduction to beekeeping for new beekeepers. Cost is \$40 per person (includes 1 additional family member free). The program, sponsored by Washington State University Extension and Cowlitz Beekeepers Association, will be held at the Cowlitz County Training Center, 1942 First Avenue in Longview. Class size is limited to 30. For more information or to register, contact Carlee Mickelson at 577-3014 Ext 0 or [MickelsonC@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:MickelsonC@co.cowlitz.wa.us).

## WASBA Journeyman certification class starting Jan.6 online

SnoKing Beekeepers Association wishes to extend an invitation to members of other bee clubs to take online WASBA certification classes with us at any levels that your club is not currently offering, particularly Journeyman. Journeyman will meet for 10 sessions online Thursdays 6:30pm starting Jan. 6. Last year 17 Journeyman candidates from at least 7 different clubs joined us online for the academic portion of the Journeyman certification process, returning to their local clubs to finish the other requirements of the Journeyman certificate. Those requirements are listed on [www.wasba.org](http://www.wasba.org). The Journeyman class description can be found in the October WASBA newsletter and on our website [www.snokingbka.org](http://www.snokingbka.org). For questions about the class, call Eli Ocheltree, master beekeeper, 206-859-7392 8am to 10pm, or email [eliochel@snokingbka.org](mailto:eliochel@snokingbka.org).

As a side note, a change in WASBA Journeyman certification requirements was made last year. All service points for Journeyman are now to be awarded for work done after Apprentice certification. For that reason, we are also starting our first Apprentice class Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> so that mentoring, presentations, service on bee club boards, and community outreach & service next spring and summer will qualify for those service points Journeyman candidates accumulate.

## Out in the Bee Yard

Bill Holmes

I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for the last 5 years. It was much more rewarding work than I could have imagined. I'll still write the occasional piece for the newsletter focusing on the bee yard which includes, ideas, bad ideas, and what I do to keep bees alive, healthy, and productive. Hopefully I'll get you thinking about what you could do differently or better. There isn't a right way to do beekeeping. You do need to be aware of nutrition, disease, and varroa. After that there's winter preparation (September), healthy productive queens, swarming, equipment maintenance, honey extraction, and so much more that makes beekeeping an interesting pursuit. But if you always keep your focus on the big 3 you will be successful.

Two of my eleven hives were low on stores. One of them got the combo quilt box/feeder which is 2 ½ inches deep and has three sections. The two outer sides have a piece of burlap and then wood shavings. The center section holds around 4 pounds of no cook sugar block, maybe a little more. There is a small ½" entrance hole and the whole thing has ½" hardware cloth below. The picture shows an insulated

board which covers the center section, but I don't use that when I have insulation above the inner cover.

The other hive got the all-feeder insert, which is pretty much the same as above without the sections. I have an insulated cover over the top, and it can hold 12 pounds of no cook sugar. The weather was in the low 40's and there wasn't a warm spell on the horizon, so I opened up both hives and installed the feeders. They opened with a loud crack as the all-important propolis seal broke. Even though it was cold and the bees

ustered, they sent out a dozen bees to let me know they were not thinking of my kind offer of carbohydrates. I closed them up quickly and covered the seams with masking tape. I went back to the house and picked up my bee journal to record the activity. When I wrote "added 4 pounds of sugar to purple" it immediately hit me, No, not Purple, Tan. I put the feed on the wrong hive. Giving it great thought, I decided not to remove and replace, I couldn't do that to them. So, I made up another batch of no cook sugar (I use ¾ cup water in 5 pounds of sugar). Let it harden for 2 days in the feeder tray and took it out to Tan. FYI the 2 double deep hives I fe





weighed 50 pounds from a rear lift, the rest of the hives were between 60 and 70 pounds.

My December project turned out to be the short long Langstroth hive. I still need to add some lifting handles which will be 2x4's mounted along the middle of the long sides. They will also add some stiffness to those sides. Then some paint and it will be ready for a spring transfer. I have high hopes for this box. It will hold 21 or 22 deep frames and will allow stacking supers in layers of 2. I will only put a maximum of 4 supers on it. I will never have to lift a deep and set it to the side to inspect a lower deep.

Your hives may look a lot like mine on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December. Cathlamet got down to 22 degrees and I had 6-8 inches of snow. One hive had a little over a dozen dead bees on the snow in front of the hive and on the mound covering the entrance. Not sure why those bees came out, but they didn't get far. I went ahead and knocked some of the snow off the entrance area, not all of it because I couldn't decide if it was a good idea or not. I don't know when the next warm day will be, but I know these bees are home for the holidays and more. Bill



### The Buzz on Pagdening

John Holmes

One of the things I enjoy about beekeeping is coming across information that is new to me, and how this new knowledge usually leads to more new information. "Pagdening" has been described as exchanging two hives so one loses flying bees to the other, generally done to equalize the two colonies. But this process is actually termed Relocation, published by Cale, G.H. 1944. Relocation as a means of swarm control. Amer. Bee Jour. 84 (5):155-156.

With the correct spelling, Pagdening or Pagden's method is a swarm control that has evolved from work by James W. Pagden (1814-1878). Today we find "Artificial swarm method" is used interchangeably with the "Pagden's method". With the Pagden's method the beekeeper is basically capturing the swarm before it occurs. The queen and flying bees are removed and placed into a new hive. The original colony is left to raise a new queen. The moving of the original colony is to provide more flying bees to the new colony and reduce the chance of the original colony swarming. The link below gives an excellent description. Some key points include:

- When inspecting a hive if you find open occupied queen cells, then there is a possibility to control the swarming. If sealed queen cells are found it is generally too late for control. And if the queen and eggs are absent it is likely the swarm has already departed.
- The method will require an extra hive and stand, frames of drawn comb.
- Space is needed, the method involves moving the original hive six feet to the left and right of its original position.
- Timing, at day 7 the original hive needs to be moved, but not after 7 days

<https://www.theapiarist.org/pagdens-artificial-swarm/>