

The Voice of Professional and Backyard Beekeeping

Cowlitz Beekeepers Association Newsletter



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

November 2023

Next Meeting

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

Attendees can join a Zoom meeting without signing into the app. Join us at our next meeting. Click the link I will send out a few days before the next meeting. If you are not a member but would like to attend a meeting request the code at

cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com

When: November 16, 2023, 7pm.

Speaker: Erica Shelley, Ph.D., CEO, CTO "Best for Bees, Ltd."

Topic: Beekeeping for the Future

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 awareness and education program.

Erica Shelley, Is the founder and CEO of Best for Bees, and the innovator behind the ProtectaBee hive entrance.

Erica received her B.A. in biology from John Hopkins University in 1994 and her Ph.D. in Molecular and Medical Genetics from Oregon Health and Sciences University in 2000, studying yeast and DNA Repair. She is also a graduate of the Wilfred Laurier Women's Entrepreneurship program. Erica has taught at the University of Toronto, the University of Waterloo, and Conestoga College.

In early 2020 Erica was recruited to assist with Dr. Peter Kevan's Apivectoring projects at the University of Guelph.

Erica's mission is to "Save the Bees, one colony at a time," by bringing together scientists, engineers, beekeepers, and designers worldwide to collaboratively improve bee health and secure our food supply chain.

This session isn't just a lecture; it's a collaborative forum where your ideas help shape the monumental Big Bee Data Movement.

Since 2018 Erica has served as the chairperson of "Bee City Kichner", an organization that advocates for pollinators.

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

David Scott, Trustee (360) 425-2314

Elizabeth Peters, Trustee (360) 241-6954

Anna Pitkin, Trustee

Vicky Turek, Trustee (303) 808-3764

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

The background of the lower section is a close-up of a honeycomb with several bees flying around it.

Supporting Veteran Beekeepers

Healing Through Hives

We support a new generation of Veteran beekeepers and Veteran-owned apiaries across Western Washington. We offer scholarships and other educational and networking opportunities and a chance to become a certified beekeeper from beginner to master levels. Join us for hands-on, in-person opportunities to learn and connect with other Veterans and beekeepers!

Reach out to us!

Email: jennah@goodgrub.org Visit: 



Cowlitz Beekeepers Association
Monthly Meeting
October 18, 2023

Meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: in person	19
via Zoom	<u>6</u>
Total	25

Guest speaker: Igbagbolere David. He talked about honeybee health and management.

Voted on a Logo for our club. Two submissions were made. One from Zenobia Scott and one from Vicky Turek. Vicky's submission was unanimously approved. Congratulations Vicky!

Next month we will be voting on new officers and trustees for 2024. Our President, Secretary and Treasurer said they are willing to continue next year, along with our Trustees, Anna, David, Elizabeth and Vicky. Our current Vice President is stepping down. Nominations will be taken from the floor for all positions. Vicky Turek was nominated for Vice President. Al Wilmoth and Scott Stulgis were nominated for a Trustee position. More nominations will be taken from the floor at our November meeting. Ballots will be available at that time.

Wilco would like to have a one-day representation from our bee club at their store, plus have a flier available.

Ken is getting burlap from Red Leaf. Anyone wanting to use burlap contact Ken.

A big thank you to all who brought treats and raffle prizes!

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Minutes taken by,
Zenobia Scott, Secreta

New CBA logo



Beekeeper Education

The Cowlitz Beekeepers Association in conjunction with the Washington State University Extension Master Gardeners will be sponsoring an in person WASBA certified Beginning Beekeeping Course in January/February 2024. Classes will be on January 30th, February 6th, 13th, and 20th from 6:00 – 8:30 pm at the Cowlitz County Training Center, 1942 First Ave. Kelso WA, (behind the Cowlitz County Courthouse). Class size is limited to 25 participants. The cost is \$50 which includes the manual, beginning beekeeper certificate, and 2024 WASBA membership. All attendees must pre-register no later than January 10, 2024. Payments must be made online at:

<https://bee-keepes-workshops-2024.cheddarup.com> . Registration includes attendance of guest (no manual, WASBA membership, or certificate). Walk-ins will not be permitted. We cannot accept cash or checks at the workshop.

For more information contact Gary Fredricks at (360)577-3014 ext. 3 or Fredricksg@cowlitzwa.gov or Ken Curtis at (360)261-2795 or cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com

Beekeeping in the Pacific Northwest - November

By now fall inspections should be completed and bees should be settling in for winter. Weak colonies should have been combined. If you haven't already removed queen excluders and added mouse guards November is a good time to do so.

If your bees have not stored 80-100 pounds of honey continue feeding with dry sugar, sugar cakes, or fondant. On days that the temperatures reach the upper fifties bees should be doing cleansing flights. If you do not witness activity around your hive when temperatures are warm you should be concerned. Lightly tap the sides of the hive and listen for the bees if you do not see activity. If you do not hear the bees, you should lift the cover to ensure the colony is still alive. If you discover a deadout you should try to diagnose why. If you have any doubts, seek the help of a more experienced beekeeper. If you still have doubts you can send samples to Oregon State University to diagnose American Foulbrood and other diseases.

Winter Hive Inspections

By Ken Curtis

After months of caring for the bees it's time to take a deep breath, relax, and wait for spring. Or is it? I don't know about you, but for me waiting for spring is the hardest part of beekeeping. On cold wet rainy days and nights, I can't help but wonder how my bees. Are the bees still alive, do they have adequate food stores, were my fall varroa treatments enough, are my hives well ventilated, etc.?

We can't control the weather; However, there are steps we can take to prepare for winter. We can place Styrofoam insulation between the outer cover and the inner cover to help control condensation on top of the hive. Hives can be wrapped. We can install quilt boxes and/or upper entrances for ventilation to control moisture. Entrances should be reduced, and mouse guards should be installed. We should have tipped our hives slightly toward the entrance to direct what condensation does form on the top of the hive toward the front of the hive rather than dripping on the bees. On warm days it's a good idea to remove dead bees away from entrances to ensure that bees can get out for cleansing flights. Entrances should be

cleared of snow when necessary.

So how do we know if our winterizing measures are enough. We perform speedy winter inspections on warm days (twice a month if the weather permits). Sometimes this inspection might be as simple as lifting the hive to check the weight. Sometimes we need to open hive(s) to take a quick look inside.

Bees do a decent job of keeping the hive warm and can recover after the hive has been opened for a short period, even on cold days. Never open hives if it is raining or snowing unless it is absolutely necessary. Do not pull frames or separate boxes. Check food stores by lifting the inner cover and peaking inside or by lifting one end of the hive to check the weight. If food stores are low feed sugar cakes, dry sugar, or my preferred feed, fondant. Perform inspections around noon, which gives the bees time to recover and warm up before nighttime temperatures drop.

I treat with oxalic acid vapor in November, December, January, and sometimes February. I like to treat the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, the last week of January, and the end of February. During winter this is all I can do, but it gives me peace of mind and benefits the bees.