

The Voice of Professional and Backyard Beekeeping

Cowlitz Beekeepers Association Newsletter



Dedicated to Preserving the Honey Bee through Community Action, Awareness and Education
September 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: Next Meeting will be in October

Speaker:

Topic:

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

Please join us for the annual CBA barbecue/picnic on September 16, 2023 at "Willow Grove Park" Pavilion 2 from 12pm to 5 pm. Club members and family are welcome. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be supplied. Please bring a side dish or desert. Bring non-alcoholic beverages for yourself and your guests. There will be a honey tasting competition so bring a sample of your best honey. Logo ideas will be accepted at the picnic.

Don't forget that the club has an electric extractor and a manual extractor, an uncapping tank, and an electric uncapping tank available for members to use. Contact Ken at (360)261-2795.

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

Message from the President



Hello Beeks,

I pray that this newsletter finds everyone in good health and spirits. The board of WASBA would like to thank you for your support in the first-ever Pollinator Knowledge and Fun Fest. More than 500 people attended this event! I would like to personally thank every club and person who hosted a booth or helped set up, tear down, or supported in other ways. It was your support that made this event a success.

Continuing on that note, I would like to encourage everyone to join us at this year's [Annual Conference held at the Olympic Hotel at Capitol Lake in Olympia, WA on October 7th and 8th](#). You can look forward to hearing from 20+ speakers, networking with an estimated 400-500 attendees, a Saturday evening banquet, a live auction, raffles, and more. We are expecting this event to sell out so please do not wait to [register](#).

We are looking for two people who have the equipment and availability to film the presentations at the conference. Both volunteers will receive lodging and free access to the entire conference. If you can fill one of these two volunteer positions, please contact us at contact@wasba.org.

Finally, WASBA is committed to supporting local clubs to continue educating and empowering beekeepers in every part of Washington State. Sponsorship and financial support from local companies and business owners increase our ability to support local clubs. WASBA sponsors are promoted by through digital materials, booth spots at in-person conferences, and more! Please go to <https://wasba.org/about/general-sponsorships/> to learn more about the levels of sponsorship and promotion, or send this link to a business owner you know who is looking for opportunities to promote their business.

Thank you for being a part of WASBA and all your support!

Alan Woods,
WASBA President



*Gather all your beekeeping friends
and join us on the west side of the
cascade mountains this fall to
share our love of honeybees and
learn from an impressive speaker
lineup during the 2023 WASBA
Beekeeping Conference at the
Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake!*

FREE BOOTH for Clubs!

Cowlitz Beekeepers Association
Monthly Meeting
August 17, 2023

Meeting came to order at 7:03 p.m.

22 in attendance via in person and Zoom.

Our guest speaker was Alan Woods. He talked about honey bee nutrients and how important they are for the honey bee. Had questions and answer time during and after the presentation. Alan gave Ken the list of the 10 essential amino acids that are vital to the honey bee's health.

A sign up was passed around at the meeting for those who would like to become a mentor and for those who want a mentor.

Ken would like to start a Sponsor program for a new beekeeper.

Please submit your design for a logo for our club. We have 1 submitted so far. Logo submissions should be of your own design, not from the internet because plagiarism is an illegal offense, and your design should be able to be enlarged or made smaller.

Lexi was presented with a gift card for her work on the exhibit hive.

The club has 2 extractors (1 electric, 1 hand crank) for members to use. Also a hot knife and a box for the cappings. Check out is for 3 days. The equipment is at Ken Curtis' house.

Our annual BBQ Picnic is on September 16, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It will be located at Willow Grove Park, Pavilion B. Don't forget to bring your honey for the honey tasting contest along with a side dish, salad, or desert. No regular meeting for the month of September.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Minutes taken by,
Zenobia Scott, Secretary and Vicky Turek, Trustee

We are in need of a club logo. If you have an idea, please feel free to send it to me at kencrts1957@yahoo.com. Please don't pick something you find on the internet. We want the logo to be original.

Mentor Program

We have 5 volunteer mentors available to help beekeepers in need.

Thank you, David Scott, Vicky Turek, Al Wilmoth, Scott Stulgis, and Ken Curtis

Scholarship: The board decided it would be a great idea to provide an eager new beekeeper with a scholarship if they meet certain requirements. Each potential recipient will be interviewed by the members of the board. The winning recipient will be required to successfully complete the beginning beekeepers' course which will be paid for by the club, and will work with a mentor. After successful completion of the beginning beekeepers' course, we will provide them with a bee suit and tools, a NUC which they will install into a hive also provided by the club with the help of the mentor, which they will install into a hive body also provided by the club. We are hoping that some of the items will be donated by club members. Candidates are not required to be related to any club member. We will begin making a list of candidates in the near future. Please let me know if you know of a possible candidate for the scholarship at cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com. You can also submit their name to Zenobia Scott or I at the picnic or at a club meeting. I would like to pick the right candidate before the next beginning beekeepers' course which should begin in January. Make sure to put scholarship in the subject line. Ken Curtis

On August 26, 2023 four members of the board including myself, Al Wilmoth, Vicky Turek, and Anna Pitkin attended a workshop at "Woods Bee Company" in Centralia Washington. At this workshop we spent about 15 minutes discussing winterizing a hive. The remainder of the workshop was spent discussing how to take healthier bees into the winter. We discovered that in Canada the focus of beekeepers is on probiotics, beneficial bacteria, and minerals the bees need to have better gut health. In Canada the survival rate of colonies is over 90% from what we were told. Another board member "David Scott" will also be attending the workshop. I intend to put some of the feed supplements to use in hopes of having a high survival rate in the spring. I will continue adding supplementing the bees throughout next year just to see if there if the practice recording the results throughout the beekeeping season. I'll report my findings to the club in the spring, and then again next spring.

Beekeeping in the Pacific Northwest in September

By Ken Curtis

- By now you should have removed your honey supers.
- Now's the time to do varroa checks and treat if necessary.
- Now's the time to check winter honey stores, and feed 2 to 1 sugar syrup if your honey stores are not adequate to keep your bees through the winter months.
- Now is the time to wage war against yellow jackets. These aggressive little buggers are out in greater numbers than normal this year and they are desperate for food for their colonies. Yellow jackets can wipe out even a healthy hive.

Preparing for winter (The Beginning)

By Ken Curtis

A couple of days ago I did a complete inspection of my hives. A couple of them had a mite count that was above my threshold of 2% (6 mites per 300 bees). I moved a few frames of brood from strong hive to weak hives to equalize them. I also combined an extremely weak but healthy colony with a semi-strong colony making sure to eliminate the queen from the weak colony.

Yesterday I spent some time moving old hives from one location to another as yellow jackets have been extremely active scavenging from unused hives. I placed these hives on a sheet of plywood and placed covers on them making sure to trap as many of the yellow jackets inside as possible. I discovered that one of the hives had a colony of Honeybees in it, and they were not happy with me

when I moved them.

I tried a new method of trapping the flying menaces that worked better than any method I have tried in the past. In a single day I eliminated over two hundred yellow jackets in a single trap (See the YouTube video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FhFTGK1UQ>).

I also set out Fipronil bates for the buggers to share with their colonies using a technique I learned from a newsletter article by Bill Holmes, (<https://cowlitzbeekeeping.wixsite.com/website/kill-yellowjackets>)

Today it is cooler than it has been meaning most of the bees will be in their hives. This tells me today is a good day to start treating for more with oxalic acid vaporization. Half of my hives have extended-release oxalic acid pads on them so I will not treat them. Comparing the results in the spring is my experiment for this year. I believe that both ways will work equally. However, vaporization requires me to treat once every three days for twenty-four days for a total of eight visits to my hives.

Later this afternoon I will be placing "Super Fuel" fondant patties on each hive to help ensure the bees gut health is good. After the patties are consumed, I will place 2:1 sugar syrup on the hives. Fingers crossed I will have a 90% or higher survival rate in the spring.