

The Voice of Professional and Backyard Beekeeping

Cowlitz Beekeepers Association Newsletter



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

cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com

When: August 17th, 2023 7:00 PM

Speaker: Alan Woods

Topic: Honeybee Nutrition

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 progra

Alan Woods is a master beekeeper, as well as the current president of the Washington State Beekeepers Association, and the owner of Woods Bee Company in Centralia Washington. He is dedicated to helping beekeepers become proficient in the care of honeybees. Alan offers free workshops including:

The Four Reasons Bees Die in Winter

Mites - Focus on Integrated Pest Management

Starvation – Fall Preparation Using Supplemental Feed

Moisture – Preparing Hives for Wint

Not Enough Bees - Making Bees

To sign up for free workshops sign up for the newsletter at

<https://woodsbeeco.com/>

Congratulations Vicky Turek for becoming a WASBA certified

journeyman beekeeper. We are lucky to have you as a member of the CBA.

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

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.

Go fourth parade. A special thanks to Marcia Exter for allowing us to use her covered car port to build and store the float. Vickey Turek and Anna Pitkin were in charge of decorating the float, and did a great job with help from fellow club members Barbara Skreen, Julie Galkin, and Terri Horness. We all had a great time representing the CBA. We had enough candy for the entire parade route.





I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all the volunteers who made the Cowlitz County fair a success, and a special thanks to David and Zenobia Scoot for their hard work setting up and manning the station several times. The Cowlitz Beekeepers Association took the blue ribbon, as well as the Superintendent's award thanks to their hard work and creative setup. One final thank you goes to Sean McGill's daughter Lexi for her fantastic artwork on the new club display hive. **One end of it is waiting for a club logo.**





Mentor Program

It's time for experienced beekeepers to lend new beekeepers a helping hand. Therefore, it is time we start a mentor program. Each mentor will help mentees form an area that is close to them. I am working with presidents from other clubs to set up a program. The idea is that regardless of how we take care of our own bees, we must all be on the same page so we can assist each other when necessary. If a mentor does not know the answer to a mentees' question they can have them get in touch with a fellow mentor that might be able to help them. Working together we can help new beekeepers become better beekeepers. Please help me with this program. Suggestions are welcome, mentor volunteers are a god send.

Scholarship: Last night the board decided it would be a great idea to provide an eager young 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, 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 at the August meeting.

Beekeeping in the Pacific Northwest in August

By Ken Curtis

It is time to prepare for winter. Colony populations are beginning to slowly dwindle. The nectar flow is coming to an end. August is the time to remove supers and extract honey.

Robbing becomes a problem in August. It's time to have your smoker loaded and lit. You may not need it, but it is a good idea to be prepared. Bees become more aggressive in an effort to defend their honey stores from robbers.

Inspections will focus on honey stores and bee populations. Don't forget to check for mites as this is also the time when mite populations can explode. Treat, if necessary, but remember that some mite treatments are temperature sensitive. I personally use extended-release oxalic acid pads until late September when the weather starts to cool. I then use oxalic acid vaporization once every three days for 24 days.

Honey stores are extremely important. If your upper deep is not full of capped honey it is time to feed with sugar syrup. As long as the weather is warm enough 1:1 sugar syrup is sufficient. With the dearth bees will consume much more syrup than they would during the nectar flow. Feeding internally is a good idea as ants, wasps and robber honeybees can smell the syrup and they want it too. Yellow jackets are a huge problem this time of year so be sure to set out yellow jacket traps.

Populations will continue to dwindle as the days grow shorter. Performing splits is no longer acceptable. However, it is ok to remove 1-2 frames of brood from a strong colony and place them in a weaker colony to equalize them.

August is the time to make decisions about what to do about weaker colonies. Should they be combined with a strong colony, equalized, or fed in hopes that they will be prepared for winter.

If you decide to requeen a hive or replace a missing queen it is favorable to use a mated queen. The chances of a virgin queen being mated are favorable, but time is against her. It takes 7 days for her to get mated, 7 days for her to begin laying eggs, bees. and then 21 days for the worker bee eggs to emerge as adult bees.

Harvesting honey from capped frames is best. However, should you have some frames that are not capped and frames that are capped they can be combined, but be sure to use more capped frames than uncapped frames. You must make sure that the moisture level is below 18%. Otherwise, you run the risk of the honey fermenting.

If you have extra frames of honey, they can be banked in a freezer to feed bees in the spring.

Yes, August is a critical month for a beekeeper. If you do what it takes to protect and provide for the bees there is a good chance they will overwinter successfully, and you will have a strong healthy hive in the spring.

A typical day in the bee yard

By Ken Curtis

Today I was asked by my Orthopedic surgeon what is a typical day with the bees like. It took me about a second to respond that there is no such thing as a typical day in the bee yard.

I explained that some days I sit in my lawn chair and watch the bees fly away from the hive and back again and note the direction they are flying as I drink a glass of ice tea. While, other days I might get a little closer to see if the bees are bringing in pollen and nectar.

Still on other days I might open the hive and peek inside to see if there is enough honey for the bees to overwinter. I might pull frames to get a closer look at what is going on inside the hive. Is the brood pattern solid or spotty, are there fresh eggs in the hive, do any cells contain more than one egg, are there a lot of dead bees, do the bees appear to be healthy, do their wings look normal or is there a sign of deformed wing disease, etc.? Other times I have to check for Varroa Mites, which forces me to kill about three hundred bees by drenching them in alcohol.

I explained that it is not always necessary to locate her, because seeing eggs is a sign that she was there within the last three days, but it is necessary to find her when testing for Varroa mites or performing splits.

By the time I left he was not only impressed with my recovery from knee joint surgery. He was also impressed with the world of the honeybee and beekeepers.

Cowlitz Beekeepers Association Monthly Meeting July 20, 2023

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting began at 7:16 p.m.

We had a total of 23 people in attendance. This was from those in person and via Zoom.

Our guest speaker was Dewey Caron. He talked about his April Honey Bee Survey for the State of Washington and Cowlitz County. Questions were asked during and after the presentation. If you would like to take a look at the survey you can download it for free at www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa.

The Cowlitz County Fair begins July 26, 2023 through July 29, 2023. We need volunteers to man our booth in the EXPO hall. Please sign up and enjoy your time at the fair! We displayed a new hive body for the fair goers to see at the fair this year. Thank you to Shawn Magill's daughter, Lexi, for painting the hive body.

We would like to have a logo to represent our club. This logo will be placed on T-shirts, stickers, etc. Stickers could be handed out at the Home and Garden Show, Arbor Day Celebration, 4th of July parade, and the fair. Please submit a drawing on what you would like as our logo. All submissions will be looked at and then voted upon at an upcoming meeting.

A special thank you to Vicky Turek, Barbara Skreen, and Zenobia Scott for bringing treats to our meeting. Also, a thank you goes to Ken Curtis and Zenobia Scott for bringing raffle prizes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by,
Zenobia Scott, Secretary