

# The Voice of Professional and Backyard Beekeeping

# Cowlitz Beekeepers Association Newsletter



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

**July 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](mailto:cowlitzbeekeepers@gmail.com)

**When:** July 20, 2023 7:00 PM

**Speaker:** Dr. Dewey Caron

**Topic:** What is your July/August Bee Plan?

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 programs



We are excited to announce our guest speaker for July, Dr. Dewey Caron.

Dewey brings a wealth of experience to the club. He grew up in Vermont, attended University of Vermont as undergraduate in Zoology. He has a Masters in Ecology from University of Tennessee and a PhD (Entomology/ Apiculture) from Cornell University. He was lecturer and administrative Assistant at Cornell for 2 years, then worked his way from Assistant to full professor at University of Maryland, Department of Entomology (1970-1981). He was involved with teaching, extension, regulatory and research and acting chairman duties before moving to University of Delaware as Chairman of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology. He remained for 29 years as Professor, following chairmanship with teaching, research and extension duties in Entomology, apiculture and Ecology as well as international appointments and as Honors professor. Dewey moved to Portland, Oregon, upon retirement in 2009, to be closer to his grandchildren. He continues to be active with Eastern and Western Apicultural Societies, Honey Bee Health Coalition and Pollinator Protection and is actively "unretired", both writing and talking about honey bees and pollinating insects. He serves on Boards of both California and Colorado Master Beekeeper programs and is scientific advisor to the EAS Master Beekeeper program.

You don't want to miss this one!

\*Courtesy of ORSBA

## **Association Officers and Board:**

Ken Curtis, President (360)261-2795 or

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Al Wilmoth, V. President (815) 391-4089

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Barbara Skreen, Treasurer

Elizabeth Peters, Trustee (360) 241-6954

Dave Scott, Trustee (360) 425-

2314 Ray Davis,

Trustee (360) 431-2882 Anna

Pitkin, Trustee

We are in need of volunteers for the CBA booth at the Cowlitz County Fair July 26-29<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Zenobia Scott (360)425-2314 for more information and/or to volunteer. Sign up sheet will be available at the July Meeting.

10 frame brood boxes with frames and heavy waxed black plastic foundation for sale \$55. All new. Please contact Ken if interested (360)261-2795

We are still in need of volunteers to hand out candy at the go fourth parade. We will meet on 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. between Broadway and Hudson.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Marcia Exter for providing a covered area under her carport to work on the float.

Thank you, Anna Pitkin and Vicky Turek, for your efforts to prepare for the parade and for your hard work decorating the float and making sure we have enough candy for the young spectators along the parade route. Thank you, David and Zenobia Scott, for volunteering the use of your trailer and a hive for the float and Scott Stulgis for volunteering to pull the float. Thank you, Barbara Skreen and Julie Galkin, for your help decorating the float.

## 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

## How Honeybees Communicate

By Ken Curtis

Watching bees move from flower to flower in a perfectly choreographed dance is a beautiful sight. While bee behavior resembles a ballet, it is much more. In fact, bees are incredible communicators that share information without any verbal communication. In the darkness of a honeybee hive bees rely on touch, taste, smell, and sound to communicate.

### Food Sharing is an ongoing Topic

Food travels through a hive quickly. Hungry house bees will stop a forager to ask for food and will receive sustenance if available. Foragers also share samples of resources to introduce a possible food source.

### The Waggle Dance: How Bees Communicate the Location of

## Food

Bees use the waggle dance to communicate the location of food. The waggle dance begins when a scout bee flies up to a spot near the hive entrance. She will perform a series of figure-eight-like movements with her body. The direction of the curves will indicate the direction and distance to a food or water source relative to the sun. Other bees interpret her movements and head out in search of the source she is communicating.

## The Round Dance: Communicating Short-Distance Information

A simpler dance is how scout bees communicates the presence of a food or water source in close proximity to the hive to her hive-mates. The scout be will use a series of tight circles with her body, indicating that the source is within a few feet of the hive. As the other bees watch her movements, they will be able to determine the direction of the source.

## Chemical Signals: Pheromones and Scent Marking

Bees do not just use visible movements to communicate information. Pheromones are used by bees to attract mates, repel predators, and mark their territory. Bees also use scent markers called nectarines to mark food sources. These markers work as a sort of “roadmap” for other bees, aiding in the discovery and retrieval of food.

## Tactical Communication: Touching Antennae and Dancing

Bees also communicate by antennal brushing in which they touch antennae to communicate a message. This process involves bees gently brushing their antennae over one another’s body to convey a message. Additionally, bees may nuzzle and nudge each other in a dance to communicate a message.

## The Role of Sound in Bee Communication: Vibrations and Humming

Bees are able to communicate hive mates of potential dangers and the location of food sources by using vibrations ad humming. Low-frequency humming sounds are generally used to warn of a predator in the area. Bees vibrate their abdomens and wings to warn of potential dangers as well as the location of a food sources.

## Some Communication is Olfactory

A honeybees’ sense of smell is incredibly acute. In fact, it is superior to mosquitos and fruit flies. They prefer flowers that have a sweet smell when searching for nectar. They also use their sense of smell to locate the queen and hive mates’ pheromones.

## References

6 *Fascinating ways Bees Communicate*. (n.d.). Retrieved from Hobby Farms:

<https://www.hobbyfarms.com/6-amazing-facts-about-honeybee-communication/>

Stander, J. (2023, January 16). *How do bees communicate with each other?* Retrieved from Beekeeping Trove: <https://beekeepingtrove.com/how-do-bees-communicate-with-each-other/>

On June 24<sup>th</sup> we held our annual field day event. I would like to extend a special thank you to David and Zenobia Scott for the generous use of their out apiary for the event. I would also like to thank Al Wilmoth for helping out by leading a group through hive inspections.

## Pollinator Knowledge Fun Fest.



Cowlitz Beekeepers Association  
Monthly Meeting  
June 15, 2023

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

In attendance:	in person	17
	via Zoom	<u>6</u>
	Total	23

Our speaker was Ken Curtis. He gave a PowerPoint on "Roundup, Alternatives to Roundup, Risks to Honeybees." There was a question and answer time after the presentation.

A question was posed to the group, "What was interesting in your bee yard?"  
Anna said that she has a laying worker bee.

Field Day is Saturday, June 24, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. If you plan to go please sign up.

We need volunteers for decorating the 4th of July Parade float here in Longview, WA and volunteers for the WASBA Pollinator Knowledge and Fun Fest.in Olympia, WA.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Minutes taken by,  
Zenobia Scott, Secretary