

## Lewis County Beekeepers' Association: Minutes of September 10, 2008 Meeting

### Meeting topics:

- \* Drafting LCBA bylaws
- \* Creating an LCBA lending library
- \* Outreach: Gardening for Everyone, LCBA Fliers & Logo, Maintaining Membership Rosters, Visiting other beekeeping groups, Visiting Speakers from LCBA
- \* Dues & Fees
- \* Legal and Liability Issues
- \* Northwest Corner Beekeepers' Fall Conference, 10/16-18, Vancouver, WA
- \* Talk by Dave Smith: extracting swarms from structures
- \* Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, at 7 p.m. at the WSU County Extension Office in Chehalis, basement floor of the old courthouse. Norm Switzler will speak on removing bees from structures and re-installing them in new structures.

LCBA President Bob Harris convened the meeting at 7:30 and introduced Sheila Gray, the WSU Extension coordinator for Lewis County (slgray@co.lewis.wa.us). Nineteen members were present; new members introduced themselves as well and were welcomed. The minutes of LCBA's August meeting were approved, and we moved to our first topic.

***Drafting LCBA Bylaws:*** Bob reported that he talked with the state beekeepers' association, as well as with the Pierce and Snohomish County groups. All three are sending copies of their bylaws to Bob for possible use as a template for LCBA's. We need bylaws to be able to open a bank account, get donations, and incorporate as a nonprofit. All present agreed that we should first incorporate as a nonprofit organization, then seek 501C3 status if we choose to apply for grants. Brandy DeMelt, Sheila Gray, and Peter Glover will work on a draft of the bylaws and bring a draft to the next meeting.

It was also agreed that after bylaws are approved, the officers of LCBA will handle organizational business, either in person or over email, between meetings and present news and any pressing issues to the members at monthly meetings in a brief business segment so that monthly meetings can focus on informative presentations and discussions about bees. Hopefully our next meeting, where members will review the draft of the bylaws, will be the last in which business will be a main feature.

***Creating an LCBA Lending Library:*** We agreed to share our books in a traveling lending library. Gary Gorremans agreed to accept custody of the "library crate" and bring it to monthly meetings. Bob suggested that we keep a roster of who's got what book, probably in the form of an index card file, with members borrowing and returning from meeting to meeting. Bob brought in back issues of *Bee Culture* magazine and his own books on bees, inviting members to borrow them. Also, he brought in copies of the Portland Ruhl Bee company catalog for members to take. Peter Glover noted that the book *Nectar and Pollen Plants of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest*, listed in the Ruhl

catalog, is now out of print and selling for outrageous prices on American Book Exchange online, but Ruhl is selling it for its original price of \$17.95. Bob will buy a copy for LCBA's lending library and asked members to let him know before Friday, 9/12 if they'd like him to pick up materials for them at Ruhl's.

***Outreach:***

***Gardening for Everyone:*** Bob announced that he would be giving a presentation entitled "Every Gardener A Beekeeper" at Gardening for Everyone, to be hosted by the Master Gardeners at Centralia College on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. This presented a chance to get the word out about LCBA. Bob's wife Sharon created paper with an attractive bee background, and Peter Glover and Susanne Weil agreed to put together an initial flier to distribute, as well as create a poster-board informational display with pictures from Bob's "bee symposium." Peter noted that LCBA could have a display table at GFE, and Sarah and Brandy agreed to staff the table.

***LCBA Fliers and Logo:*** We decided that LCBA needs a good-looking flier and a logo. Sheila noted that the WSU Extension office has an hourly employee who could work on this if LCBA gets information and materials to her. Peter noted that the WSU logo appears on all Master Gardener materials and asked whether LCBA will also be an official WSU group. Sheila and Bob explained that at least so far, LCBA would not: rather, the LCBA-WSU relationship would be analogous to that WSU maintains with the community farmers' market, more a liaison relationship (or, as Bob quipped, "kissin' cousins").

***Maintaining membership rosters:*** Brandy agreed to keep an updated membership roster in her role as mentorship coordinator ("at the prevailing wage of two cupcakes").

***Visiting other beekeeping groups:*** Olympia has a beekeeping group which meets on the first Monday evening of each month. Sarah agreed to go to their next meeting to see how they do things and report back to LCBA.

***Visiting speakers:*** Bob noted that given the strong interest in beekeeping locally, it would be good if some experienced LCBA members would be willing to give talks to outside groups. Bob, Dave Smith, and Mike Turner agreed to be available to do this.

***Legal and liability issues:*** We revisited the issue of the state's requirement that apiarists register their hives with the state even though the state no longer employs an apiarist to offer services. We agreed that LCBA will make registration forms available to members, but that it is not a goal of our organization to enforce state rules or regulate our members.

We discussed liability issues that might stem from LCBA members giving advice and agreed that we will need an insurance policy. The possibility that we might ask guests at LCBA informational events to sign waivers was discussed as well.

***Dues and Fees:*** We voted to have a joining fee of \$10 and yearly dues of \$24. Our fiscal year will run from October to September, and members joining midway through the year would pay pro-rated dues. Dues will not be collected until we have completed our bylaws and incorporated as a nonprofit organization, though. At present, Bob has \$200 in the bank for LCBA plus seed money from WSU. The WSU funds are not for club business, but rather, for bringing in a speaker before the end of December. If not used,

these funds would go back to the state. We agreed to have John Ruhl of Ruhl Bees in Portland come to speak to us: he is interested in partnering with LCBA and offering discounts on bee products. Bob agreed to organize this.

Finally, Bob volunteered to bring a coffeemaker, cups, sugar, and creamer to our meetings. Rather than have formal refreshments, members can BYOM (bring your own munchies).

***Talk by Dave Smith: extracting swarms from structures:*** Norm Switzler, who works for Olympia Fish & Wildlife and gives talks on bees and beekeeping, was not present to speak due to a mix-up about dates: he will speak at our October meeting. Dave Smith graciously stepped up to share his adventures in extracting swarms from structures in an impromptu talk enjoyed by the members. Among the points he made was that even at this time of year, a swarm caught can over-winter and survive if the bees are fed. Dave uses sugar water and “Bee Pro.” To extract the bees, he sets up a smoker in the wall, then places a bee box, with old drawn wax, beneath: the bees will enter the box to avoid the smoke.

Dave also described how extracts honey, first using a screen, then a double sieve with a very fine mesh. He strains the honey to get out the wax and bee body parts. He doesn't heat the honey: rather, he works in a shack he keeps at 85 degrees. To cap the combs, he improvised with an electric filet knife. Dave extracts honey twice a year: this year, he extracted in early July and is in the process of working on it now, in late September. Beekeepers have to be sure to leave enough honey so that the bees don't starve.

There was also discussion of ways to handle being stung, followed by discussion of open-frame vs. closed-frame hives.

Respectfully submitted,  
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