

Lewis County Beekeepers' Association:

April 2012 Newsletter

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Upcoming LCBA Events:

**APRIL 7: PACKAGE BEES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT BORST PARK FOR PICKUP –
DETAILS WILL BE SENT BY EMAIL TO THOSE WHO ORDERED.**

April 10: Beginning Beekeeping Class Starts: see details under “Announcements,” below.

April 11: LCBA Monthly Meeting, 7 – 9 p.m.: Hiving Your Bees and other spring issues.

Speaker: President Norm Switzler will explain how to get your new package bees housed in hive boxes, plus other startup & spring beekeeping issues, and our usual beekeeping Q&A. **The next LCBA Board Meeting** will be 5 p.m. on April 11. If anyone has concerns they'd like to bring to the board, please email LCBA Secretary Susanne (Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com).

**April 25: "Honey Bees for Food Security: Ecological Diversity in the Americas,"
Centralia College Lyceum, 1 to 1:50 p.m., Washington Hall 103.**

Free & open to the public. Dr. Dewey Caron will describe his work in Bolivia, teaching indigenous peoples how to work with Africanized bees for home-grown honey, an alternative to government-controlled sugar from sugar cane.

May 9: LCBA Monthly Meeting – please note time adjustment – 6:30 to 9.

Speaker: Dr. Dewey Caron will be back to survey us on bee losses & update us on research news about the state of honey bees in the Pacific Northwest.

Notes from our March 14 Meeting:

- ***Business Meeting: Finalizing our Package Bee & Nuc Orders, plus Beekeeping Q&A and report from the Board Meeting about club issues & initiatives.***

President Norm called our meeting to order – the Extension classroom was filled to the gills with beekeepers, and Norm announced that we are working on a new venue – options will be announced at our next meeting. Peace Lutheran at Jackson & Bishop is one possibility; the Odd Fellows Hall in Chehalis, a few blocks from Extension, is a possibility; Centralia College is also a possibility.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jon Wade reported that as of this meeting, our balance is \$3,691.71. Jon reviewed expenditures (mainly for the potluck venue and for LCBA fliers) and explained to those who had missed the last meeting that we now have a scholarship fund, thanks to generous donations just over \$300 at our February meeting. These scholarship funds are to help any beekeepers who are in financial hardship join our group. We can discuss other forms of help to those who need it.

Package Bee Orders: Norm, Bob, and Susanne explained details. For both package and nuc orders, we will use Borst Park, near the Master Gardeners' demonstration garden, as the venue for pickup. We will shoot for pickups from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the date. Pickup dates will be different for the packages from Ruhls and for the Nucs that Tim Giese's contact, Mr. Johnson, is organizing for us - Susanne will email the date & pickup information unless people have indicated they'd rather be phoned, in which case Brandy will telephone them. Members should let Susanne know if they'd rather be phoned than emailed.

The Nucs cost \$82 (\$84 with feeder); the package bees will cost somewhere between \$82 and \$87, depending on the volume of our order. Members were asked to let Susanne know during the meeting break if they wish to make any last changes to their orders. Bob said that he'd be placing the orders the morning following this meeting, so this is the last chance to make

changes. Members were asked to remember that since Bob is fronting the money for the orders, an order is a commitment to pay.

What are Nucs, and what are the pros & cons of starting with Nucs? For those unfamiliar with the terms, a Nuc is a smaller hive box that has an established queen who has already been laying eggs and who is already integrated with her workers. The queen and her workers are on four frames with, if you order this, an inset feeder frame in which you can pour sugar water. Nucs are a head start – a way to get started more quickly in our shorter spring/summer seasons. One possible disadvantage of using nucs is the possibility of getting “dirty comb” from someone else’s hive – but Tim has bought from Johnson in previous years and vouches that he gives not only a clean product, but a good sized product with brood “ready to pop.”

The feeder on the nuc is a single frame feeder inside the nuc box for \$2 extra. You will have to continue feeding even a nuc, so it makes sense to purchase the nuc with a feeder inside. The nucs are not medicated, and the queens are not marked, so upon installation of either packages or nucs, that would be the time to medicate via the feed you give your bees. We think that the nucs are Italians.

Bob asked Tim whether the nucs coming out of almonds in southern California will carry a pesticide load. Tim says that they are user friendly and pull the bees out prior to spraying, but the monocrop mentality can lead to other problems. At least we, here, can give a pesticide free environment. If you’re bringing in a nuc hive, you do get what the previous owner did – mitocides or other treatments can be in the comb. The purist will go with a package because it’s starting from scratch. Gary asked whether we know for certain that they are not using chemicals in the bee yards where our packages are bred: Tim said, true, one never knows – it’s a leap of faith. All we really control is what we do to our own bees.

What are Package Bees, and what are the pros & cons of starting with them? Package bees are simply a couple of thousand bees in a wire mesh box, with a queen in a queen cage. The package bees must be shaken into an empty hive box with frames, and the bees will start drawing comb from scratch. The queen, in her cage, must be inserted, hanging down from the top of a frame: by the time the workers chew through the hard candy or marshmallow that stoppers the cage, the queen will have “claimed” them with her pheromones. The “package advantage” is the chance to watch your colony develop from its beginning.

Marie Panesko noted that as a first time beekeeper, she felt great excitement in putting her bees into the hive for the first time and watching as the colony developed. Bob Harris suggested that it could be very interesting to compare and contrast a nuc and a package in terms of their development.

Schedule update – Dewey Caron will speak at our **May 9** meeting; our **April 11** meeting will be led by Norm to cover how to hive bees, as well as spring management issues.

LCBA Nametags: Bob brought nametags for people to pick up. New members will have nametags ordered for them by Bob. Bob will check with Jon about new members.

Beginner Beekeeper classes: There will be a spring class, and there will be coordination with Tim Weible and his fall class. Our club also has bee mentors – see the announcements section of the newsletter – whom new beekeepers can call for help.

Who would like help with their bees this spring? Gary Stelzner suggested that we put together a list of those who would like help and those who could give help; Susanne asked people to email her with their name and location if they are new and would like help, and if they are experienced and would like to give help. We'll match people up at the April meeting, so that newbee/mentor pairings are set before the bees arrive.

Hiving package bee demonstration: Tim Weible will give a demonstration on hiving packages behind the Honey Hut – he will be selling packages and will be glad to show anyone who wants to see. Tim doesn't like to "dump" them b/c the bees are fragile. Look at the Honey Hut website for announcements of when this will be – probably April 21, but check the website: Centraliadelisteakandbbq.com.

Honey bees & health issues: Tim noted that he prefers to feed his bees honey rather than sugar, as the honey is their own product and organic. He was asked if he would treat at the time when he gets the bees. Tim said no. Tim said that imagine frames being pulled from a big hive along with three pounds of bees. With the split, you've diminished mite numbers, and now you are going into an environment where the queen will be laying hard, they'll be pushing numbers fast, and he does not want to stress them more. The numbers of bees will be multiplying so fast that the mites can't get critical mass. The time to treat, Tim suggests, is closer to fall, when they are slowing down in laying and are already strong.

What about Nosema? Tim and Norm agreed that the only effective treatment is Fumigillen B – go to Randy Oliver's Scientific Beekeeping website: scientificbeekeeping.com.

Randy's site has great information about mites, nosema, etc. He supports what he says with graphs and other evidence. To treat for Nosema, you have to go via the feeder, putting it into the food. Randy does a range of treatments to try to get comparisons – *e.g.*, the powdered sugar, v. a control hive with no treatment, v. mentioned treatments for Nosema.

Spraying your orchard – how to do this without harming bees? A new member asked when it is ok to spray your orchard if you are keeping bees. Norm answered that he doesn't spray at all. Tim said if you're going to spray, do it in evening, after bees have gone in for the night. Try to do it when the bees are not flying; if you do it early morning, bear in mind that bees can rise early, too. Live sulphur and copper should not be a problem for your bees, Bob Harris said: he uses them and has never seen a bee deficit in consequence. If it isn't raining, your bees will be out, so try to avoid windy days and – above all – if you must spray, do it at times when bees are not flying.

Bee Supply presentations: We had two visitors, Kevin Priester from Priester Bee Supply, Deer Island, Oregon, and John Martin, construction worker and beekeeper from Rochester, WA. Their information, plus Tim Weible's Centralia Honey Hut, John Edwards'

Ruhl Bees, and some online options, are all detailed below in a special section of this newsletter titled: **Beekeeping Supply Options [see below!]**.

- ***Our Featured Speaker: Sharette Giese***

- ***Topic: Now That You've Got Beeswax, What Can You Do With It?***
 - ***Attached to this Newsletter's cover email is a flyer that summarizes some key points in Sharette's presentation; if you can't open it, email Susanne and she'll get you a hard copy.***

If you already have your wax cappings, you may want to render wax. Sharette Giese of the Woogie Bee explained how to get the cappings down to liquid gold (which you can then convert to candles – another conversation!). You have to melt cappings down and separate the honey, sludge, and bee body parts from the wax. Tim and Sharette have a large commercial melter, which does the first step for them. However, if you don't have a wax melter at home, you need to see what it takes to get to that first step. Sharette showed photographs of how she renders her wax.

First, Sharette notes that it's ideal to dedicate a stainless steel pot to wax if you're going to do this. She put a small steamer lift in the bottom of a pot to help create a double boiler. When it cools, it will layer up to wax on the bottom, honey, etc., on the top. At Goodwill, she found a stainless steel bowl that she put her cappings into. For her spoon, she advises a strong one that won't get flimsy with heat. She filled up twice because there is a lot of air. For filtering, she put cheesecloth over a pot. Tie the cheesecloth down, or tape it down, so that the weight of the sludge doesn't pull the filter down into the pot. A screen is also an option. A honey strainer might not work so well unless it were made of metal. A Wal-Mart splatter screen for \$4 is another option.

Sharette then put the filtering pot into another pan to avoid having drips all over the floor or counter or sink. She kept thinking that the wax wasn't truly melted – there is an appearance of chunky sludge – but the wax is melted, so it will pour. If it is too thick, it won't – Sharette showed us a photo of the thick sludgy stuff that wouldn't go through the filter. It did go in, but ideally, you want the wax to go in all at once, and the sludge goes to the bottom, the wax stays at the top. When she peeled off the cheesecloth, she had wax with some sludge. She then took the bowl and just let it cool. Then she stuck her knife in, peeled it up, and started to scrape off the honey/sludge mix. Then she saw that she still had a lot of thick gunk. What came out of the pan with the very thick cheesecloth worked better: she got a clean ring of golden wax. She noted you really have to melt it twice – once to get rid of most of the sludge, then again to get rid of the residue. Sharette said that the cappings she melted slowly were cleaner and less thick. The sludge layered well on top of the cheesecloth, with less going through, as her photos showed.

The optimal temperature for doing this is probably under 140 degrees. Sharette had the water to the boil, then backed it down a little.

Sharette said it's a fun process, but if you're going to do it, do a lot, to make it worth it. Tim suggested using a melter with a valve at the top and at the bottom. As the material heats and liquefies, the honey goes to the bottom, and the wax rises to the top, and as you open the valve at the top, it's pure honey coming down. If you had a pot and put in enough water, you'd be able to get the wax to the top. First step could be liquefy, allow to cool, pop off top, let wax rise, scrape off sludge. Marie said that she put the cappings out for the bees to clean the honey out of before starting the rendering process.

The next stage of straining can be cheaply done using a strainer made from panty hose, pouring through that makeshift strainer into a milk carton. For the panty hose: use a knee high, tie a knot at the end, and you'll end up with 4 strainers out of a cheap package of Wal-Mart knee highs. To prep the milk carton: put the knee high over the top of the rinsed milk carton; the top needs to be cut off the milk carton.

Sharette then melted the wax again in a pot with a small spout so that what was left was mainly gold wax. Then she poured it through the pantyhose into the milk carton. Sharette noted that it's a really bad idea to squeeze the panty-hose – it may break and ruin the whole operation, so you'll have to start over separating the sludge. Don't get impatient. Then just let the wax set up in the milk carton: you can peel off the carton, or just leave it in the carton to store it. If the wax sets up and has a kind of milky haze on it, that is normal: just polish it off.

The wax can be used for candles or for soap, but it's possible to make soap without beeswax, the way that Jamie Allwine did. You can add dyes for candles, but that doesn't always work so well: e.g., add purple, and it'll turn out brown.

If you have a non-stick pan for rendering the wax, that helps, too. Then you can just wipe out the pan with a paper towel and store the pan. One member added that you can take a torch, blow holes through the wax, then insert the wick and pour in colored wax, and you'll have a multicolored candle.

The group thanked Sharette for her fun and informative presentation; many stayed after to ask her questions.

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***A report on overwintering loss surveys of WA beekeepers, 2010-2011
winter, with comparisons to earlier loss surveys -- by Dr. Dewey Caron***

**A report on overwintering loss surveys of WA beekeepers, 2010-2011
winter, with comparisons to earlier loss surveys**

By Dewey M. Caron OSU Dept of Horticulture, Corvallis

The winter is a season of elevated risk in beekeeping, but recent seasonal losses have been unusually high. Significant regional colony losses with somewhat similar characteristics, labeled with a variety of names such as spring dwindling, autumn collapse, May disease and other descriptive terms have occurred over at least 100 years of US beekeeping. One early documented loss, referred to as disappearing disease, occurred in 1915 in Portland, Oregon. Many of these reported instances, past and present, involve symptoms that included the sudden disappearance/dwindling of large numbers of bee colonies with elevated seasonal losses.

As part of the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP), I have been involved in documenting national losses over the last five years. To date, no single factor has been identified as the reason for the elevated losses documented since the winter of 2006/2007. Although pathogens are identified in killing of both brood and adult bees, the reasons why honey bees appear to be so susceptible to the pathogens is a source of considerable debate and study.

There is no unanimity that pesticide exposure, colony management/movement stress, viruses, Nosema or Varroa are singly responsible but all have been implicated and are most likely interconnected in some yet understood negative way. Losses in one area or region in the world may not necessarily be due to the exact same set of conditions compared to other regions. Keeping Varroa levels below 5% infestation level seems to mean lower loss levels for individual beekeepers and Virus conditions such as DWV (deformed wing virus) rather than nosema seems critical.

Prior to the appearance of the two honey bee mite parasites *Acarapis woodi* and *Varroa destructor* in the mid- to late-1980s, beekeepers typically had winter losses of 10-15%. The introduction of bee mites caused loss rates to increase substantially and since mid 2000's losses have been even higher. An oscillation of heavy losses one year followed by lighter losses the subsequent year is evident. Small scale beekeepers experience higher losses than commercial beekeepers with semi-commercial beekeeper losses intermediate.

At the past two April Lewis County meetings I have passed out a survey to gauge overwinter losses in the group. I encourage all beekeepers to become part of the National survey. If you go to the website www.Bee Informed.org, you can enroll and get a reminder when the survey is available (it is only open for a 2-week time period). On the website click on participate (on top bar) and when you open you will get prompt to register your email address for automatic notification.

In 2010, 8 Lewis Co individuals filled out my survey – 5 (62.5%) reported no loss. For all 8 individuals total loss was 4 of 20 colonies, a 20% rate.) Last year I received 23 Lewis Co responses. Colony total for the 23 respondents was 90 colonies (Medium=4 colonies; 1 colony was most common number, with 1 to 13 range). 12 of 23 (52%) beekeepers had no winter losses – 11 beekeepers lost a total of 22 colonies – a 24.5% weighted rate (22 colonies loss of 90 total number of colonies of the total number of 23 respondents). Median and most common number of losses was 1 (range 1-5 colonies). In all I had 65 total survey responses from WA sideliners (mainly in Lewis, Cowlitz and Clark Counties). They started winter with 452 colonies (Med=3, range 1-35 colonies). 39 had losses (120 col loss total) while 26 had no losses (41%). Total weighted loss average of all 65 small scalars was 26.5%. Paul Lundy, WSBA president also collected loss data from 81 (most managing under 20 colonies) WA beekeepers and he found total losses of 39%. In the National Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) survey, 144 WA individuals responded (all but 6 small scalars), with the weighted loss statewide = 32.5%.

I sincerely thank all the Lewis Co beekeepers for providing data for 2010 and 2011 loss surveys.

What do these surveys help tell us? The over-winter bee losses of WA beekeepers appear to fluctuate from heavier to lighter in alternate years. What are you seeing this winter? Are losses heavier than last? Losses experienced in lighter loss years 2008/2009 and last most recent winter (not including the current over winter period) 2010-2011, are similar in magnitude to the losses during the years from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s when beekeepers were dealing with newly introduced mite problems while heavier loss years are at a greater magnitude.

Heavy bee losses are not something the “other” beekeepers are alone experiencing. Smaller scale beekeepers report the heaviest loss levels. Reasons small scale beekeepers have considerably higher losses compared to commercial beekeepers (with semi-commercial intermediate in loss level) are not evident from survey responses. Management differences likely are involved. Commercial/semi-commercial beekeepers are more likely to inspect colonies earlier in the spring and more frequently and they are more likely to supplement colony food stores in early spring and fall. Also commercial beekeepers treat prophylactically for Nosema and brood diseases and are more likely to have a pro-active varroa mite treatment plan in place whereas many small scale beekeepers do not practice prophylactic varroa or Nosema treatments. Commercial beekeepers are more likely to save a colony via addition of a nuc and/or uniting colonies compared to smaller scale beekeepers.

From our surveys we find commercial beekeepers are replacing lost colonies in numbers that actually exceed the number of colonies lost overwinter, although the replacement rates reported have been lower in the past 2 seasons. Splitting of colonies from successfully overwintered colonies is the preferred method, with purchase of nucs or package bees being less preferred. One reason for higher purchase vs splitting the last 2 years could perhaps be due to possible federal reimbursement (Farm Service Agency) funding. Smaller scale beekeepers are

either giving up in face of heavy losses or starting over with package bees and/or captured swarms.

It appears in the face of continuing heavy losses that evolving management practices have allowed Washington beekeepers to maintain sufficient colony numbers to service the agriculture industry's pollination requirements, including CA almonds. Almond and tree fruit rentals constitute over 50% of larger scale beekeeper income, though another dozen crop rentals contribute as well. Pollination rental income continues to be significant, representing over 3/4ths of total income for the year, for PNW commercial beekeepers. In March 2012 WA State Beekeepers newsletter (page 15-16) and April Amer. Bee Journal article I will present the survey results of a recent Pollination Economics survey. Stay tuned.

For a more complete report of losses in the PNW see the article by Caron and Sagili in the March 2012 Amer Bee Journal. For the 2010-2011 National report, see article by VanEngelsdorp, Caron and the BIP team in Jan 2012 Journal Apiculture Research, pages 115-124. Special thanks to all the Lewis Co and Washington beekeepers who took the effort to complete a survey. A survey will be conducted again this spring, at LCBA's May monthly meeting, and we ask ONCE AGAIN if you would take the few minutes to FILL IT IN and SEND IT IN. We sincerely appreciate your continued cooperation.

Table 1. Pacific Northwest (PNW) commercial/semi-commercial beekeeper survey-selected reasons for winter losses (more than 1 choice could be selected.)

Year	mites	starvation	Queen failure	CCD	Other
2009-2010	27 (24%)	19 (17%)	33 (30%)	17 (15%)	15 (13.5%)
2010-2011	17 (16%)	22 (21%)	30 (28.5%)	13 (12.5%)	13 (12.5%)

Bees & Honey In the News:

- Two new studies have tied Neonicotinoid pesticides to crashing bee populations. According to the article on msnbc.com, "a widely used farm pesticide first introduced in the 1990s has caused significant changes to bee colonies and removing it could be the key factor in restoring nature's army of pollinators." For more details, visit: <http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/03/29/10921493-neonicotinoid-pesticides-tied-to-crashing-bee-populations-2-studies-find>

- Another new study suggests that honey bees may have distinct personalities. *Time.com* reports that "Some bees are thrill-seekers while others prefer to hang around the hive, according to new research published in the journal *Science*. The study shows that some honey bees are more eager to take on certain jobs than their comrades. And researchers say this could be down to differences in their personalities." To learn more, visit: http://newsfeed.time.com/2012/03/09/study-bees-have-distinct-personalities/?hpt=hp_t3#ixzz1qk7mJBp7

Beekeeping Supply Options:

- ***In Lewis County:***

- ***Tim Weible, The Honey Hut at Centralia Deli Steak and BBQ, 708 Harrison, Exit # 82 off I-5, 2 1/2 blocks east on your left. Phone, 360-736-1015; email, centdelisteakbbq@aol.com; website, Centraliadelisteakandbbq.com.***

Tim is our LCBA Beginning Beekeeping instructor for Spring 2012 – see our lead Announcement, below, for details about the class. Tim is a longtime beekeeper and has become a licensed Mann Lake dealer. Tim’s “Honey Hut” has pretty much everything you may need by way of supplies in stock: suits in small to XX, gloves, boxes assembled or unassembled, supers, wax and plastic foundation, frames, tops, bottoms, smokers, tools, and books. Tim also offers specialty items like local honey and even mead, as well as bee-related gifts.

- ***In Rochester, WA:***

- ***John Martin, 19019 Moon Road SW, Rochester 98579; Phone, 360 280 5274; email, hjweaver@emypeople.net.***

John visited our March meeting. John is a construction worker and beekeeper from Rochester, WA, who has started a business importing woodenware products from woodenware-worker Harold Wieber of Beeline Apiaries and Woodenware, which is based in Pennsylvania. John’s shop is in Rochester, and he spoke to us about their woodenware products: frames, boxes, and more, and he will have bee suits in stock in April. He demonstrated the fit of his boards. To connect with John, please call ahead at the number above.

- ***In Oregon:***

- ***Ruhl Bees, Portland: 17845 SE 82nd Drive, Gladstone, Oregon 97027; Phone, 503 657 5399; email, staff@ruhlbeesupply.com; website, <http://www.ruhlbeesupply.com/>.***

John Edwards, owner of Ruhl Bees, has a full array of bee-related products and offers a 10% discount to current dues-paying LCBA members. John has addressed our club and is our contractor for our spring 2012 package bee order. See his website for details, informational links, and more.

- ***Priester Farm Bee Supply, 31890 Tide Creek Rd, Deer Island, Oregon 97054; Phone, 503.556.1060; email, beewhisperer@priesterbee.com; website, www.priesterbee.com.***

Kevin drove up to make a presentation at our March meeting. His store is just over the Columbia in Oregon— between Rainier and St Helens off U.S. 30, about 5 miles about Goble. Kevin sells wooden wares, medications, supplements, and bees and tries to keep his costs competitive. He has about 70 packages, Carniolans and Italians, left available to order; he will be picking his up on April 7, and his bees come from near Oliveras, where John Edwards gets his bees. Kevin is essentially a new beekeeper himself, having been beekeeping for several years. He thought this would be a good opportunity because of supply and demand in the northwest. His is a family run business; he works full time for a construction company and runs his bee business by appointment only and on weekends.

Kevin's bee supply is open weekdays, after 6 p.m., he's usually open till 10 p.m. It's a good idea to call ahead. Carniolans \$84 per package. 4 pound packages are \$94 per package. Queens \$31. He buys as much American made equipment as he can. 90% of his material is made on the west coast. He builds boxes and frames for sale. Kevin was asked what type of wood he uses: pine or cedar, he said. Cedars can have some material toxic to bees; more aromatic woods can be more toxic.

- ***In California:***

- ***Country Rubes, 20693 Dog Bar Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949; phone, 530-913-2724; email, rubes@countryrubes.com; website, countryrubes.com.***
Country Rubes owner Janet Brisson has presented at LCBA; several years ago, she gave us a great demonstration of how she dusts her bees for mites using organic powdered sugar, which knocks down many mites and spurs bees

to groom each other, knocking off still more. Her special design of screened bottom boards is key to her approach to “integrated pest management.”

- ***Online Suppliers: for details, check their websites:***
 - ***Dadant:***
 - <http://www.dadant.com>
 - 888 922 1293
 - ***Mann Lake:***
 - <http://www.mannlakeltd.com/>
 - 800 880 7694
 - if you order \$100 or more, shipping is free
 - ***Glory Bee:***
 - <http://beekeeping.glorybee.com/>
 - 800 456 7923

LCBA / WSBA News and Announcements:

ANNOUNCING SPRING 2012 BEGINNING BEEKEEPING / APPRENTICESHIP CLASS

Sponsored by Centralia Deli Steak & BBQ, The Honey Hut Beekeepers' Supply, and the Lewis County Beekeepers' Association

WHERE: *Centralia Deli Steak and BBQ, 708 Harrison, Exit # 82 off I-5, 2 1/2 blocks east on your left. 360-736-1015.*

WHEN: *Tuesdays, April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 7-9 p.m.*

WHO: Instructor Tim Weible; phone, 360 736 1015;
email, centdelisteakbbq@aol.com;
website, Centraliadelisteakandbbq.com

COST: \$10 for Washington State Beekeepers' Association workbook

CLASS FOCUS: These classes will focus on the hobby / residential / small farm beekeeper. Immediate emphasis will be put on package installation and seasonal care of new hives and colonies, with so many new beekeepers receiving packages of bees in just a few short weeks. Our style is a lot of networking, participation, and interaction. Our focus is to tailor our discussions to your needs and questions. Moreover, we have tons of examples and actual hands-

on learning aids. You will get to see, hold, analyze, and feel what the books only talk about. This will give you the proactive knowledge base to keep your bees happy, productive, healthy and safe.

LOGISTICS: The class is sanctioned by The Washington State Beekeepers Association. Upon completion of the course, each participant will receive an apprenticeship certificate that is suitable for framing on your home or office wall. The classes are one night a week, (Tuesdays), for 6 weeks, two hours each night, 7-9 p.m. Centralia Deli Steak and BBQ and The Honey Hut Beekeepers Supply is absorbing the cost for the entire course so there is NO COST for taking the class except for the \$10 workbook from which the curriculum is taken; this is the price charged by the Washington State Beekeepers Association. Couples or families can share the same book, an additional savings.

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SPOT SOON! The class is expected to fill up very fast, so call Instructor Tim Weible at 360 736 1015 to get signed up. Dinner can be purchased up to the beginning of class and even into the class if you arrive late.

See ya there. Blue Skies.

New LCBA Secretary Email! Please note: beginning with our May newsletter, I will be using my Gmail account: Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com. Please be sure to put it in your list of "safe" email addresses.

Need Help with Your Bees? Call LCBA bee mentors!

- ***If you'd like to be connected with a honey bee mentor in your area, call Susanne at 360 880 8130 or email Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com.***
- ***If you need help with Mason Bees, check with Kimo Thielges (kimosabe@compprime.com), or Ted Saari (KNT98632@q.com).***

Would You Like to Volunteer as a Bee Mentor? Bee mentors take calls, answer questions, and may visit members' bee yards. If you're interested in serving this way, please call Susanne at 360 880 8130 or email her at susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com.

Free Swarm & Colony Removals by our "Bee Team." This service is free, though we accept donations to support our educational programs. Need a swarm removed? Call Susanne (see contact information above) and she'll connect you with a Bee Team member.

Free Swarm & Colony Removals: Can You Help In 2012? Swarm/colony removal is a free service that LCBA, as a nonprofit educational organization, offers the public. Swarm season

is over (let's hope!!), but if you're interested in riding along when it all begins again next May, give Susanne a call (see # above): it's free, fun, educational, and it saves bees from the exterminator!

Respectfully reported—bee happy!

Susanne Weil, LCBA Secretary: susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com; 360 880 8130