

Lewis County Beekeepers' Association: *August 2010 Newsletter*

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Upcoming Events:

Weds, August 11: Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. WSU Extension Classroom, Old Chehalis Courthouse

- * *Speaker: Dr. Tim Lawrence, County Director, WSU Extension, Island County*
- * *Topic: Human Dimensions of Colony Collapse Disorder & Their Impact On Honeybees*

Dr. Tim Lawrence knows Dewey Caron's and Jim Bach's work, and he will add to our growing understanding as he brings his own research-based perspective to the issue. Prior to taking his position in Island County, Tim was a post-doctoral research associate leading the Honey Bee Health Program in the CAHNRS Department of Entomology in Pullman. Tim worked with beekeepers, growers, and others to identify issues related to the health and viability of honeybees and their pollination efficiency. In his new position, he will be working on honeybee-related topics regularly.

○ *August Business Meeting Agenda:*

- *Elections for LCBA Board of Directors: see Minutes from our July meeting, below, for details.*
- *Bee Colony Raffle – Norm Switzler, Pat Swinth will take any last raffle tickets (\$1, proceeds to benefit LCBA) and do the drawing for a hived bee colony: see Minutes from July, below.*
- *Southwest Washington Fair: updates & planning. The Sherwoods have reserved a table; we need to discuss what to display, who'll help staff it, & when.*
- *Treasurer's Report (August is the month to renew dues!)*
- *Bees—Troubleshooting Q&A*

August 30 – September 2: Washington Apicultural Society of North America (WAS) Annual Conference, Salem, Oregon.

There's still time to register!—and Gary Stelzner will be going on Wednesday, 9/1 and can take some passengers. If you're interested, call Gary [contact information removed from online edition].

Dewey Caron, our April speaker and WAS President, encourages everyone to come to the WAS annual conference. Dewey recommends the sessions on Wednesday, September 1: a short course by Larry Connor in the morning with a program in the afternoon that includes Kim Flottum, speaking on producing and selling specialty honey and varieties.

Dewey notes that if you can only attend for one day, there is a special daily fee to help make that feasible: in that case, he recommends the full day program on Thursday, September 2. For current WAS information re: fees, program, registration form, speaker schedule, etc., visit <http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS>: if you have questions, you can also contact Dewey at: carond@hort.oregonstate.edu.

Minutes from our July 2010 Meeting

Summer Potluck: We had a great turnout and a wonderful time at Bob and Sharon's "Rose of Sharon Farm": plenty of great food, conversation, and chances to visit with Bob & Sharon's bees and assorted other critters, to the delight of children of all ages :) Many thanks to our host and hostess for opening their home to us the second year in a row!

LCBA Board Elections At Our August Monthly Meeting: Bob and Susanne reported on our upcoming elections, which will take place at our August Monthly Meeting. Believe it or not, Beekeepers, this August, LCBA will be two years old, so, per our Bylaws, August is when we must hold our first elections. Available offices are:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Coordinator

Terms are officially two years, but the Bylaws provide for putting officers' terms on a staggered schedule, to help preserve institutional history and stability. Thus, starting next year, the President, Treasurer, and Membership Coordinator will be voted on in odd-numbered years, and the Vice President and Secretary will be voted on in even-numbered years. That means that in 2011, whoever is now elected President, Treasurer, and Membership Coordinator will be up for re-election again.

Our current officers are:

President: Bob Harris
Vice President: Norm Switzler
Secretary: Susanne Weil
Treasurer: Sarah Roebas
Membership Coordinator: Brandy DeMelt

All current officers have said that they are willing to serve again, but each one is fine with stepping down if anyone else with new ideas and fresh energy would like to take a turn. If you are interested in running and have questions about what's involved in a particular board job, please call or email the current officers and ask!

How to Nominate Someone for the LCBA Board: Contact our Nominating Committee. Dave Smith and Roy Schaafsma [contact information removed from online edition] have agreed to serve as our Nominating Committee, per the bylaws. If you would like to run for an office, you are welcome to call or email Dave and/or Roy to nominate yourself. If you would like to nominate another LCBA member, please check with that person first to see if he or she is willing to serve. Also, officers must be current on their dues payments, so please check that your prospective nominee is current on his/her dues before nominating someone.

There will be a “last call” for nominations from the floor at our August business meeting prior to the elections, which will be held by secret ballot. The election part of the meeting will be chaired by the members of the nominating committee.

Are you interested in being more involved with LCBA, but would rather not be an official Board member? That's fine, too: please contact any current board member (see list above) and let us know! Also, if you have ideas about speakers for LCBA meetings, initiatives that we could undertake as a group, ways we could get the word out to local beekeepers who are not yet connected with us, or other ideas, please bring these up, either at a meeting or to a board member.

Bee Colony Raffle & LCBA Fundraiser! Norm Switzler and Pat Swinth are raffling off a colony of bees that they captured out of a wall on one of their many removal visits this summer. Did you lose any bees this winter, or would you like to add a colony? Or would you like to give a friend the gift of bees? For one lucky dollar per ticket, you can support LCBA, to which Norm and Pat are donating all the raffle ticket money, and possibly win a colony of bees. Norm and Pat vouch that these are “nice bees, with a nice fat queen and lots of brood,” and Norm adds that they are one of the most productive colonies he's worked on. So—step on up and bid: the bid can will be front and center at the August meeting. (By the way, if the lucky winner gives the bees to a friend, then they would be . . . freebees! {sorry, couldn't resist}.)

Treasurer's Report: We have a little over \$1500 in the LCBA bank account, so the organization is in good shape, with no major expected expenses other than one: earlier in 2010, members voted to join WSBA, but we have not yet officially done so. The charge is \$1 per member; all dues-paying LCBA members would be official WSBA members too, but would not have WSBA voting privileges unless they join WSBA individually as well.

LCBA: Our Third Year! What should our focus be, and how should we use LCBA funds? We may want to consider scholarships to help young people get involved with beekeeping, as well as other goals of the organization. In August, after elections, there will be a board meeting, separate from our monthly meeting (which has a pretty packed agenda): the board meeting date will be announced, so that members who want to work on future planning directions can participate. If you have ideas but can't make another meeting, please email Susanne at Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com, or call 360 880 8130, and share your thoughts.

LCBA Website update: WSU Extension already has a basic LCBA page (thanks, Sheila!), and Heather Sherwood will link to it and maintain a more comprehensive LCBA page. Heather and Susanne will get together in August and get this started. We discussed briefly what should and what shouldn't be publicly available, and we will need to discuss this further. We may want to keep things like our minutes in a password-protected part of the website. Other things, like information on how to attend our monthly meeting and join the club, how to contact bee mentors, how to call for a swarm removal, some nice photos, we will want to make publicly available. What about PowerPoints from our monthly meeting speakers: should we make these publicly available (good advertising?) or keep these password-protected for club members to access? Please email Susanne (Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com) with ideas about our website, or call 360 880 8130.

Western Apiary Society: Gary Stelzner is going to drive down for the Wednesday, 9/1 program, and invited any LCBA members who'd like to go to ride along: if you're interested, please call Gary [contact information removed from online edition]. For more details on the WAS conference, see announcements, below.

Bee Q&A: Everyone expressed relief that the weather seemed to have turned more summer-like. Still, we have not had a very productive year in terms of things blossoming to support our bees. For this reason, Norm recommends we consider starting to feed our bees in mid-late August. Norm commented that it has been so moist that bees cannot fan off moisture, and this means that they may not have as much food available to them. Once supers are taken off the boxes, it is time to start feeding your bees.

Supers on, yea or nay? Norm, Jason, Ray and other experienced beekeepers recommend leaving / putting supers on now. There will be blackberries soon, and forage plants, but also, the bees will have a lot of brood hatching as the food supply tapers off, so they will need to rely on stores. Japanese knotwood, one of the latest blooms, doesn't yield great tasting honey, so that would be good to leave for your bees.

What to do if bees are not drawing comb in the supers? If the bees have not started to draw comb in supers by now, they probably will not. One drawback of having supers on is that they take up space which bees must expend energy to make warm. On the other hand, the space provided by the super could stop a summer swarm: one member reported that when his bees were bearding badly, he put on a super, and the bearding stopped: the bees moved up into the super and started putting in honey, etc.

How to feed bees while supers are on the boxes? Top feeders are a good way to do this, and in the height of summer, there is much less risk of mold developing from the moisture a top feeder can produce. Entry-way feeders are another option.

Questions? See “Announcements,” below, for LCBA mentors to call.

LCBA NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: *First up, new announcements; next, our regular announcement items. . .*

August Announcements:

LCBA Board Elections: At Our August 2010 Business Meeting! See minutes, above, for details.

SW Washington Fair: It’s coming! The Sherwoods would like to co-locate with LCBA again, and they will need volunteers to handle questions. Last year, the Sherwood’s/ LCBA’s exhibit won the prize for the best educational exhibit at the Fair! If you’d like to take part in the fun this summer, please call Susanne at 360 880 8130.

Western Apiary Society—Annual Conference, August 30 – September 2, 2010, in Salem, Oregon. Roy Schaafsma reports that pre registration is due by August 9: it will cost more to register after that. Roy is planning on attending, as is Gary Stelzner: see above, under our July business meeting, for carpool options. For details on registration costs and the conference program, visit: <http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS>, where WAS has posted official information.

Another source of WAS information: our popular speaker from last April’s meeting, Dewey Caron, who is also WAS president. Dewey invites LCBA members with questions about the conference to contact him at carond@hort.oregonstate.edu. If you can only attend for one day, Dewey recommends the full day program on Thursday, September 2. However, he also wants us to know about the events on Wednesday, September 1: there will be a short course by Larry Connor in the morning, with a program in the afternoon that includes Kim Flottum, speaking on producing and selling specialty honey and varieties. There’s a special daily fee for those who can only attend one day: see the website, above.

Fall conference of the Oregon State Beekeepers and the Washington State Beekeepers: October 28 - October 30, Hood River, Oregon. Thanks to Roy Schaafsma for this information: Roy is planning to attend. More details at our August meeting!

Would you like to hive some bees east of Randle? Dixie Havlak owns 40 acres near Randle and would love to locate some bee hives there. Does any one need a spot to put some hives? If you're interested, call email her at havlakrd@comcast.net.

Honeybees in the News!

Dave Smith found an interesting article about **whether cell phone towers affect our bees**. The story is available at: http://smallbusiness.aol.com/2010/06/30/are-cell-phones-killing-off-bees/?sms_ss=email

Sheila Gray found a very interesting article about how **Colony Collapse Disorder** seems to be affecting commercial hives much more than hobby hives; the article also speculates on CCD causes. You can read it at this link: http://www.waheagle.com/news/article.exm/2010-07-21_disappearing_bees_mystery_no_closer_to_being_solved

Norm & Dave Need Help with Swarm Removals: Norm and Dave are looking for people in Morton, Mossyrock, Longview, Rochester etc. to take calls for swarms; some of the bee team members are getting calls that would be an hour's drive.

Looking for Used Beekeeping Equipment? Give LCBA Members Tim & Sharette Giese a Buzz [contact information removed from online edition]. The Gieses have some used equipment still available for sale: complete hives, a variety of sizes of boxes and supers, queen excluders, feeders, and nuke boxes.

Request from Fords Prairie 4-H: Does anyone have older equipment that they would like to **donate** to the Fords Prairie 4-H Beekeeping project? If you'd like to help LCBA member Lynn Espositi help these kids get buzzing, please email her at: Lynn.Espositi@lewiscountywa.gov.

Our standing announcements, available in every newsletter:

Need Help with Your Bees? Call LCBA Secretary Susanne at 360 880 8130 or email Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com, and she will put you in touch with a mentor in your area.

Free Swarm & Colony Removals: Swarm/colony removal is a free service that LCBA, as a nonprofit educational organization, offers the public. See list of beekeepers, above, to call if you—or someone you know—needs help removing a swarm of honeybees. Also, if you're interested in riding along on a removal to observe and learn more, give Susanne a call (see # above): it's free, fun, & educational.

Want Bees & Equipment? [2012 note: see our website link to beekeeping supply options.]

Washington State Beekeeping Association Beekeeper courses: Bob Harris, our president, is the contact person for this and all WSBA classes: if you are interested, email Robert@Roseofsharonfarm.com. The apprentice class is not hard or long; the Journeyman and Master Beekeeper courses, however, are much more involved. WASBA hasn't given a master beekeeper certificate for years. 5 years experience and 30 service points are required, and the prospective Master Beekeeper must write a paper; since WASBA added that requirement, no one has done it. Also, students need some lab experience.

LCBA Swap Meet—real or virtual! Got bee equipment to sell, swap, or give away? Email or call Susanne—see above. Have a “bee wish list”? Email that, too.

LCBA T-shirts and caps: Queensboro has lowered their prices on LCBA T-shirts, long-sleeved shirts, caps, etc. They offer an unconditional 10 year guarantee and will replace items if they get torn or broken. To order online, visit <http://www.queensboro.com> and use our LCBA logo number: **11342127**.

Respectfully reported,
Susanne Weil, LCBA Secretary