

## Lewis County Beekeepers' Association: *February 2010 Newsletter*

**Our Hive-Building Workshop** last month at Bob Harris' farm was well attended, about 30 in all, and fun: thanks, Bob, for the warm barn & the coffee! The fun's not over—see what we've got planned for LCBA this spring:

### *Upcoming Events & Special Announcements:*

**Weds, Feb. 10 meeting, 7 p.m., WSU Extension classroom, Old Chehalis Courtroom:**

*Speaker:* Robert Smith, our Area 2 WASBA representative. Robert has been a beekeeper since 1977 and teaches beginning beekeeping. He will talk with us about his concerns that medicating bees is not helpful; about transitioning hives from winter to spring; and about how conservative harvesting of honey in fall can help bees over-winter.

*Brief business meeting:* updates on LCBA projects (Apprentice course, 4H, nonprofit status, bees for “newbees,” etc.).

### *Want Bees & Equipment?*

*Spring's approaching, and it's good to “bee prepared.” LCBA's own Jason & Heather Sherwood have hive building materials and pre-assembled hives, as well as smokers, wax and plastic foundation boards, and, of course, bees! To place an order, call [contact information removed from online edition]. Please see their website for price lists [Sherwood Apiary is no longer in business – 2012 note]*

**Sat., Feb. 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: WSU-Extension, Master Gardeners, “Gardening For Everyone” at Centralia College, Washington Hall: Free & Open to the Public!**

*LCBA will have a booth next door to Jim Thielges, our “Mason Bee Guy.” Jason & Heather are bringing the observation hive, and Peter & I will have fliers and informational material. Want to volunteer? Contact Susanne (contact info below).*

*Gardeners and beekeepers are natural allies, so come on down to GFE to learn gardening tips—just might make your place more bee-friendly! Our Treasurer, Sarah Roebas, is giving a composting presentation. For more information call the Extension office (360) 740-1212 or check out the webpage at <http://lewis.wsu.edu>. I've pasted in the schedule at the end of the newsletter, FYI.*

**Weds, March 10 Monthly Meeting:**

*Speaker:* Janet Brisson of “CountryRubes.com” will present: “Healthy Bees & Environmentally Friendly Varroa Control.” Janet will discuss how to monitor and

manage your hives, bees and varroa mites using screened bottom boards, powdered sugar, and drone brood manipulations.

***Special Offer for LCBA Members:*** Janet will bring demonstration models of a special bottom board that she sells through her website, and which the Sherwoods also sell. Scroll on down: at the end of this newsletter, I've pasted in Janet's preview of her talk, with information about her bottom boards and sales details as a special offer for LCBA, Janet is willing to let members pre-order without obligation to buy, so that she can bring down enough supplies.

#### **April Hive-Your-Bees Workshop at the Sherwoods': Date TBA.**

Jason & Heather will offer a workshop for those who want help living bees. Those who are going to pick up their bees and equipment could come to the workshop, then leave with bees & gear. If you'd like to do this, please be sure to order in advance to be sure materials will be in stock: see "Want Bees," above, for contact information.

#### **Weds, April 14, Monthly Meeting:**

***Speaker: Dr. Dewey Caron*** will share recent research into bee behavior, colony collapse disorder, and more. Dr. Caron retired after teaching bee science for 40 years at the University of Delaware and has settled in Portland. He is a font of bee lore and information!

#### **General information items:**

- ***Need Help with Your Bees? Call LCBA Secretary Susanne at 360 880 8130 or email [Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com), and she will put you in touch with a mentor in your area.***
- ***Lost and Found! Judy Kalich lost a special pot holder at our Christmas pot luck. Did it accidentally ride home with you? Here's the description: "small ~4" diameter, round, brown print potholder that same night. It's not a huge deal but it's 1 of 2 that go with a casserole cozy that a friend made for me several years ago." If you know the whereabouts of Judy's potholder, please contact her at: [judyk10@hotmail.com](mailto:judyk10@hotmail.com).***
- ***LCBA Swap Meet—real or virtual!*** Got bee equipment to sell, swap, or give away? Email Susanne (contact info 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**.

Susanne Weil, LCBA Secretary {Janet Brisson & Gardening For Everyone info below!}

Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com  
(360) 880 8130

JANET BRISSON, OUR MARCH 10 SPEAKER, SENDS US THIS PREVIEW:

Janet Brisson and her husband Mike have been a self-sufficient family and organic farmers for over 30 years. In 1995 they were forced to become hobbyist beekeepers due to lack of pollination as bees were losing their fight against the insidious Varroa mites. Horrified to discover that even the most organic-minded beekeepers were driven to use some type of chemical to save their bees, the Brisson' researched and started building and using screened bottom boards along with intensive drone brood management to reduce their chemical use. After 10 years and various adaptations of SBB's, they re-discovered using powdered sugar as an effective way of detaching Varroa mites and have been chemical free since the beginning of 2005. One final modification of their screened bottom board to make using powdered sugar easy, the Brisson' developed their product, the Country Rubes Combo Screened Bottom Board, that has become nationally available to beekeepers and is now carried by Sherwood Honey, Bees & Supply in Onalaska, WA.

Janet's program "Healthy Bees & Environmentally Friendly Varroa Control" will discuss how to monitor and manage your hives, bees and varroa mites using screened bottom boards, powdered sugar, and drone brood manipulations.

**Club Special:** We will be bringing our Blems or seconds, screened bottom boards that have been slightly repaired or have a crack or knot and a plain white 'sticky board'. These SBB's are weatherproofed and totally functional, but because of the defects, we don't feel comfortable selling them to our distributors. We will be selling Blems for \$30.00 plus your local tax. We can take cash or checks. For charge cards, we are asking that you preorder on our website, Countryrubes.com (Scroll down until you see Washington State Preorder page). Please feel free to order and if you are not completely satisfied with our product, we will return your charge at no cost. If you wish to purchase our First Quality screened bottom boards with the Gridded 'Stickies' for \$35.00+tax, please email me at rubes@countryrubes.com or call 530-913-2724 and let me know how many we should bring and you may prepay via credit card on our website or at the club. Again, there will be no obligation to purchase. The weatherproofed SBB's are ready to go on your hive. These boards are not paintable. For Unfinished Paintable SBB's with Gridded 'Stickies', also \$35.00+tax please contact me as I usually don't bring these along.

Looking forward to visiting,

Janet

#### ***GARDENING FOR EVERYONE SCHEDULE:***

Sat., Feb. 13, 2010, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Centralia College - Washington Hall  
**ALL GFE PRESENTATIONS ARE FREE!**

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Room 103: Mason Bees - nature's early tree fruit pollinators. How to attract them to your garden. Jim Thielges

Room 105 - Spring Weeds - Learn to identify the 10 "Most Wanted" spring weeds and how to rid your garden of them before they take over.

Bill Wamsley

10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Room 103: Safe Alternatives to Toxic Garden Chemicals - Bring your left over or unused pesticides and herbicides and have them safely disposed of. Then learn how to eliminate or substitute harmful garden chemicals with safer methods or treatments. Sarah Roebas and Joni Chambers, Master Recycler Composters of Lewis County

Room 105: Summer Bulbs - Extend the beauty of the summer garden after the tulips and daffodils have faded with summer bulbs that will carry you all the way through Fall. Barbara Eastman

11:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Room 105: Plant to Preserve - How many garden vegetables do you need to plant to provide enough food to feed your family through the winter? What is the best preservation method for each? Karen Edwards

Room 103: Pruning Fruit Trees - Proper pruning increases production in apple and pear trees and improves health. Learn proper techniques and then go over to the Borst Demonstration Garden to see a pruning demonstration up close and personal. Mike Stedham.

For more information call (360) 740-1212 or check out our web page at <http://lewis.wsu.edu>