

Lewis County Beekeepers' Association: *September 2009 Newsletter*

IN THIS EDITION:

- Notes from our August 12, 2009 meeting (follows News & Events)
- LCBA News and Upcoming Events:
 - *Next LCBA Meeting: September 9, 2009, 7 p.m., at Sherwood Apiaries (directions follow). Hive Extraction Opportunity—bring your honeycomb & buckets to use members' extractors, so that you can enjoy your girls' honey!*
 - *Where: Jason & Heather Sherwood's [contact information omitted from online edition]*
 - **FYI—Want cheap honey buckets?** Sharette Geise reports: Safeway and Wal-Mart both will give away—or sell for \$1—buckets they use for frosting. Safeway's are food-grade buckets. Call ahead to be sure that they have buckets on hand; be sure to ask for lids, too. Caution: avoid the garlic butter buckets, because the smell never goes away!
 - *September Meeting - Short Agenda:*
 - **Extracting honey from comb brought by members will be our number one agenda item.**
 - *Overwintering your bees—Troubleshooting Q&A*
 - *Report: Southwest Washington Fair. Thanks to volunteers who staffed, and special thanks to Jason & Heather for letting LCBA share Sherwood Apiaries' booth—which won the blue ribbon for best exhibit at the Fair! The Sherwood's observation hive was a hit with kids of all ages.*
 - *Mugs & tiles will be available for purchase, and Bob Harris will have an update on t-shirts and caps.*
 - *Update: LCBA Nonprofit Application status*
 - *Treasurer's Report*
 - *Review of past meeting Minutes...*
 - *Upcoming Events -- Mark Your Calendars!*

- *October 14 meeting, 7 p.m. at Centralia College, Corbet Theatre – Jim Bach, former Washington State Apiarist, will share new discoveries re: Colony Collapse Disorder in honeybees. Jim’s making a special slideshow just for us. . . .*
- *November 11 meeting—7 p.m. back at the WSU Extension classroom, Old Chehalis Courthouse. Speaker: Harvard Robbins, longtime Tacoma beekeeper—details to come.*
- *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.*
- *Curious about hive/swarm extractions? Want to ride along and watch this in action? Call Susanne (see above).*
- *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.*
- *Got a great honey-related recipe? If you’d like to share it with Susanne, she’ll include it with an upcoming newsletter.*

Notes from LCBA’s August 12th Meeting:

Honey Extraction Demonstration: LCBA VP Norm Switzler brought his table-top extractor and showed how to extract honey from comb. If anyone would like to borrow Norm’s extractor, call him [contact information omitted from online edition].

Over-wintering Your Bees: Jason Sherwood walked members through a PDF file (attached to this newsletter’s email for anyone who missed the August meeting) that explains, step by step, how to get your bees ready for winter. Late summer is the time to start! Some key points:

- Give Fumagillin for weak hives;
- Check for mites and treat as needed;
- Start feeding sugar water; and
- Add hive entrance reducer.

WSU Extension Beekeeping Course: Bob updated members on this latest LCBA outreach and education venture. Norm will teach a 4 or 5 session course, starting in October, for the general public to learn basics of beekeeping, 2nd Thursday of the month. More details at our September meeting.

Welcomes were extended to new bee enthusiasts (apologies if we misspell or mangle your name!): Nina Downing from Mossyrock, Gary from Rochester, Pat Swinth from

Adna, Howard from Oakville, Laurie Corwin from Centralia, Tim Steiger from Raymond, and Barbara from Olympia.

Treasurer's Report: Sarah Roebas spelled it out: with \$573 in the bank, LCBA is short about \$200 for apprentice beekeeper course books and *Bee Culture / American Bee Journal* subscriptions. If you have not paid, please bring your payment to our September meeting, or contact Sarah at revsarah@aol.com.

On the plus side, we got two \$75 donations for bee-removal. Dave reported that he and Norm are still doing removals, but demand seems to be slowing down.

The Treasurer's Report was *approved*.

LCBA In the News! The *Chronicle* covered one of Norm, Bob, and Dave's removal operations, and their interview with Norm is online at www.chronline.com. Watch Norm munch on honeycomb and spit out bees ☺

Southwest Washington Fair, August 18-23: Members *moved and approved* co-locating the LCBA exhibit with Jason & Heather's Sherwood Apiaries booth after reviewing three options; the other two were to have a small card table in the Master Gardeners' booth or to have a table for free in the Floral Booth.

Bob put out the call for volunteers and reported that WSU Extension office would loan a "virtual photo frame" for an LCBA slideshow (photos of hive building, hiving bees, swarm removal, etc.). Jason and Heather reported that they would bring their observation hive.

Application for Nonprofit Status: Peter Glover corrected errors from the minutes about details of nonprofit status. Olympia has received our application, and we are waiting for them to process the paperwork.

WASBA Apprentice Beekeeping Course: If you have completed test sheets, give them to Bob for scoring.

Youth Outreach—4-H Initiative: Bob suggested that we encourage the formation of one or two 4-H bee groups in East and West Lewis County. This would start in October. It would not be an official function of LCBA, but rather educational outreach. This was *moved and approved*.

Minutes from our June and July meetings were *completely forgotten* and will be dealt with along with this set at our September meeting, maybe, if we remember.

Respectfully submitted, with thanks to Peter for taking notes while I was in New York,
Susanne Weil, LCBA Recording Secretary