

Dear Beekeepers,

I hope everyone had a happy, healthy 4th of July after the swarm-iest June in memory!

Our Next Workshop: Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our June 27 workshop with Kevin Mills was well attended and a nice inauguration for the newly reorganized club apiary. Our next workshop at the Apiary will be on Saturday, July 18. For this one, we'll focus on everyone's favorite topic: Varroa mites - testing, treating, managing. If you'd like to attend, please reply to this email.

SCHEDULE CHANGE - Summer Potluck Picnic will be Saturday, August 1: Long story short, when we were working on a summer schedule for the club, Lintott Alexander Park let us know they might not be open on July 11, so we shifted back to August 1. We'll meet from 3 to 7 pm at our usual place, Shelter #2. We'll have food, fellowship, our drawing to support our 2021 youth scholarship program, and just hopefully a good old time! Would you like to help Pamela set it up? Please rsvp to this email to be on the set up/clean up team.

August & September LCBA Meetings: Yup, Centralia College is still closed to outside groups, so we are going to "Zoom Meet" with Dr. Danny Najera, the "Mite Buster," on August 12, 6 to 8 pm, and hopefully on September 9 with Dr. Dewey Caron. If you haven't done Zoom, or don't have good access, no worries; we will set up our projector & screen at the Apiary with a laptop and those who would like to attend there are welcome – just RSVP to me. I will send out a link with the Zoom address to our membership several days in advance of the meeting. If you haven't Zoomed yet, no worries; it's pretty easy (I have discovered that even an English teacher can do it!). You just click on the links, mute your microphone on your computer till you have a question or comment, and enjoy in the comfort of your own den. You can even disable the camera on your computer if you'd prefer to be invisible – or you can go wild and find your own Zoom background (mine, you'll be stunned to learn, is Bees).

2019-20 Lewis County Bee Losses in the PNW Bee Survey: I'm sad to share that reported club losses were 57%; losses were 54% for Cowlitz County and 53% Clark County – our stretch of southwest Washington got hammered, it seems. However, this loss rate is down from 69% the previous year, so that is some qualified good news. Dewey will share more information with us in September, and meanwhile, you can view the details of the report here: <https://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2019-20-Lewis-Co-REPORT.pdf> Thanks again to Dewey and his team for all their work on this project.

"Murder Hornets" in Washington State: Entomologists really don't want us to call them that, so here's your Asian Giant Hornet update: these hornets are an invasive species detected in Whatcom County last year and a serious threat to our bees. Some of you may be getting emails from Karla Salp at WSDA: what follows summarizes her messages. Two more hornets were found in Whatcom County earlier this summer. WSDA is trapping for them and asks us to help by reporting any sightings. Photos help; specimens are even better. To turn in an Asian hornet to the authorities, go online to agr.wa.gov/hornets; email hornets@agr.wa.gov (nope, not the hornets' email), or call 1-800-443-6684. They ask us to share as many details as possible and include location. Their website now has a section specifically for beekeepers at <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/insects-pests-and-weeds/insects/hornets/beekeeping>. You can find a sightings map, info about "citizen scientist trapping for Asian giant hornets," and more!

July 9: Free Webinar on Beekeeping and Asian Giant Hornets: WSDA, WSU, & WASBA are offering this webinar just for us beekeepers with info to help us. They'll have Q&A. Here are Karla's directions for how to participate: "The webinar will be held July 9 at 7 p.m. To join, simply go to the webinar link at 7 p.m. or a little before. [The webinar link is below this paragraph.] You can also join by phone by calling 1-415-655-0001 and entering access code: 133 385 6903. The webinar will also be recorded and uploaded to WSDA's YouTube channel within a few days of the live webinar. . . . If you have additional questions about Asian giant hornets, you can contact the WSDA Pest Program at hornets@agr.wa.gov or 1-800-443-6684. Please note that most WSDA employees are being furloughed at least one day per week through July. We appreciate your patience and we will respond to your message as soon as possible."

Asian Giant Hornet v.s. Honey Bee Webinar link:

<https://watech.webex.com/webappng/sites/watech/meeting/download/88e4d3f860dd47a1be4f9c8a884de025?siteurl=watech&MTID=m68f0e2ef3994282f56dad65957da06be>

Beesearch: As reported in the last news bulletin, we are planning to resume in September, so Peter and I will be contacting the students. Since we just got it going, if you had been interested but missed the first meeting, please let us know if you'd like to join in!

Our Youth Scholars are doing well with their bees. So far all are adding boxes. Several have experienced their first swarms, too, and everyone's hoping for some honey (at least to taste). I apologize for bee-ing behind on getting photos to the website and FB page – soon!

Best wishes to all – stay healthy, and bee happy!

Susanne

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