

Dear Beekeepers,

Well, folks, the pandemic did not stop us from getting and hiving our new bees! Mentees and mentors have been working together, our Youth Scholars are having a great time with their hives, and our apiary has gotten a bee-autiful upgrade, thanks to the hard work of Bob Harris, Walt Wilson, Cody Warren and others on the apiary team. Now it's time to get together again with some new events!

Workshops! First up, Kevin Mills of Hive 5 Bees is going to lead a workshop at our apiary on Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (and if we're lucky, maybe we can get him to serenade the bees with one of his great songs!) This workshop will cover hive inspection basics and would be a great opportunity for our new beekeepers to see our club apiary and go through hives with experienced beekeepers. We'll be covering what to look for when you inspect, how to identify good/poor brood patterns, when to super for honey, and more! We'll have pizza and pop afterward during our Q&A. If you'd like to come, please reply to this email. We are limiting the workshop to 25 attendees plus mentors for safety's sake.

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. We're planning a cap of 25 again, though by this point things may be easier for social gatherings; we'll see!

Summer Potluck Picnic: Next, our Summer Potluck is on for Saturday, July 11, from 3 to 7 pm at our usual place, Lintott Alexander Park, 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.

Meetings? Centralia College is sorry that they can't have outside groups on campus yet, and this is going to be the case through the fall months as well, sadly. However, I am working on setting up Zoom meetings for August 12 with Dr. Dewey Caron and September 9 with Danny Najera (the Mite Buster). 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 😊

Club Apiary: Speaking of the apiary, the storage shed is now up, and Walt Wilson is looking for donations of insulation. Have you got one of those partly-used-up rolls of fiberglass batting, 16 or 24", taking up space in your barn? We can take it off your hands! Please contact Walt at anchrwtch@gmail.com. More on the apiary: remember our wonderful "be the face of the bee" photo board from the Fair? That was painted by Cody Warren's daughter in law, and she is going to paint our club logo on the Apiary sign!

The Fair: As you know, sadly, the Southwest Washington Fair will not be held this year, but we are expecting to be back in 2021, and for the Youth Fair in the Spring, too. We will have to make our own fun at our workshops!

2021 Beginning Beekeeping Class: The College does want us to run our Continuing Education "Your First Year in Beekeeping" class in Jan-Feb 2021. We are working out details with them about social distancing, etc., but are planning to go ahead, so please let any friends interested in getting into bees know. We are also hoping to have a bee class at CC East to serve East County, but that may wait for 2022; we'll see!

Beesearch: Our own in-house continuing education class, Beesearch, had our opening meeting – and then everything went nuts. But 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!

Treasury Report: Rick told the board at our meeting at the Apiary last week that our checking balance is \$7,277; our savings, \$5,003.86, and our Youth Scholarship fund, \$2,779.78, though we have not yet debited this spring's youth scholarship expenses; more news later, but the club is in good shape.

Youth Scholars! Last, but far from least, our Youth in Beekeeping Scholarship students are having fun with their bees. I'm mentoring Gabby in Winlock, and she has put her 4th box on her bees, with a queen laying a stunning pattern! William and Westley, our brother beekeepers in Rochester, are being mentored by Cody, and they got to experience and hive their first swarm. Berkeley in Chehalis is being mentored by Bob, and I have to get the adorable video that Berkeley's mom made of their hiving adventure up on our website. Finally, though we couldn't fully fund our last two scholars, we did partly fund them with some gear and bees: Jacoby and Olivia, both in Centralia, are being mentored by Steve and Kevin, respectively. It is fantastic to have 6 young folks in the program this year, and their families are fully involved, too!

Swarms! I can't sign off without noting that this has been one of the swarmiest seasons in years! Walt has hived about a dozen swarms, Steve Howard got a soccer ball sized swarm that he's pretty sure were Kevin R's bees, and Peter and I doubled our apiary with swarm captures. What is going on with the girls?!

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

Susanne