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## March 2018 LCBA Newsletter

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*Questions? Suggestions? Resources you'd like to share, stories you'd like to tell? Please contact LCBA Secretary Susanne Weil: [secretary@lcba.community](mailto:secretary@lcba.community) or call 360 880 8130.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Thursday, March 8**

**LCBA Monthly Meeting: Package and Nuc Bee Orders**

**Bee Orders 5 to 6 p.m.**

**Followed by Monthly Meeting Program, starting 6:30 p.m.**

**Where:** Centralia College, Washington Hall 103; 701 W. Walnut, Centralia, WA 98531

**When:** Social Time, 6-6:30 pm; Speaker, 6:30 – 7:30 pm; Business Meeting, 7:30-8:45

**What: Speaker, Gottfried Fritz: Avoiding “Spring Dwindle” & Other Spring Bee Management Issues.** Longtime beekeeper Gottfried will share methods for bolstering overwintered bees in spring, getting bees ready for the nectar flow, & more. Please bring your questions & experiences to share!

***FYI ~ To order bees, you must be current on LCBA 2018 dues. The form is on our website (linked under Membership on the homepage), and we’ll have hard copies available at our March 8 meeting.***

**Package and Nuc Bee Prices are listed following Upcoming Events.**

### ***TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR THOSE WHO REGISTER THEIR HIVES WITH THE STATE***

One benefit of registering your hives with Washington State is that you do not have to pay sales tax on bees and woodenware. To get this benefit, you must produce your proof of apiary registration. A portion of apiary registration fees supports the WSU APIS lab. Below is the link for 2018 WSDA Apiary Registration.

#### ***2018 WSDA APIARY REGISTRATION***

**[https://agr.wa.gov/FP/Forms/PP/docs/6116-ApiaryRegistration\\_2018.pdf](https://agr.wa.gov/FP/Forms/PP/docs/6116-ApiaryRegistration_2018.pdf)**

**Thursday, April 12: LCBA Monthly Meeting**  
**Kevin Mills, Hive 5 Bees: Raising Northwest Queens**



*Above, Kevin and Amanda Mills, Hive 5 Bees*

**Where:** Centralia College, Washington Hall 103; 701 W. Walnut, Centralia, WA 98531

**When:** Social Time, 6-6:30 pm; Speaker, 6:30 – 7:30 pm; Business Meeting, 7:30-8:45

**What:** Kevin Mills, owner of Hive 5 Bees and the Mills Diner, will share his adventures in raising queens adapted for our Pacific Northwest conditions. Followed by business meeting.

**Thursday, May 10: LCBA Monthly Meeting**  
**Debra Langley-Boyer, West Sound Beekeepers:**  
**The Slovenian A-Z Hive**



*Above, Slovenian AZ Hive (<https://www.mybeeline.co/en/p/whats-the-buzz-about-slovenian-az-beehive>)*

**Where:** Centralia College, Washington Hall 103; 701 W. Walnut, Centralia, WA 98531

**When:** Social Time, 6-6:30 pm; Speaker, 6:30 – 7:30 pm; Business Meeting, 7:30-8:45

**What:** Debra Langley-Boyer will share information about the AZ Hive, a design in which bee colonies are placed in a covered house or shed; the hives open from the back, enabling beekeepers to remove frames one at a time without lifting heavy boxes. Your back may be interested in this presentation! Followed by business meeting.



## **2018 PACKAGE & NUC BEE PRICES FOR LCBA MEMBERS**

*LCBA's board has finalized prices for 2018 bee orders with two vendors, Beeline Apiaries and JC Bees. The order form for each vendor was sent by email to LCBA's mailing list and is linked on our website under Upcoming Events. Below is price, package size, type of bee, order process, and bee pickup information.*

### **Beeline Apiaries:**

- **\$107: 3 lb Carni / Italian packages with marked queens**
- **\$121: 4 lb. Carni / Italian packages with marked queens**
  - **\$38: Carni / Italian queens, marked**
  - **\$140: 5 frame nucs, unmarked queens**
- **Prices above will have 7.9% sales tax added unless you have proof of 2018 WA State hive registration**

### *Special Offer from JC Bees (Juan Carlos Valdovinos):*

- **\$600: pallet with 4 established hives, each 9 frames with feeder (\$150 per hive, but must buy the pallet; individuals could share)**
- **\$135: 5 frame nuc with (probably) caged Carni / Italian queen**

**ORDER PROCESS – Next Page**

## PACKAGE & NUC BEE ORDER PROCESS

**Bee orders will be taken at LCBA's March 8 meeting, 5 to 6 p.m., in the hallway outside Washington Hall 103 on the Centralia College Campus.** Please fill out & print the order form and bring it to the meeting. We will have paper copies available, but if your forms are filled out, orders will go faster. Please bring a check made out to Lewis County Beekeepers' Association (no abbreviations) or exact change.

**To order bees through LCBA, one must be a member current on dues.** Membership forms are available on our website ([lewiscountybeekeepers.org](http://lewiscountybeekeepers.org) – click on the “Membership” link on the home page), and we will have paper copies available at the March 8 meeting.

**If you cannot attend the March 8 meeting,** you can mail your order form, payment (and membership form and payment if needed) to LCBA Secretary Susanne Weil, PO Box 787, Onalaska, WA 98570. **HOWEVER** - if your order form and payment do not arrive in time for the meeting, your order can't be processed – LCBA gives the vendor a check the next day for the order. The order is a pass-through; LCBA does not mark up the vendor's prices.

**Delivery Date:** For Beeline Apiaries, estimated date is April 19; for JC Bees, first week of May (it could be late April). **HOWEVER**, please prepare to be flexible since weather conditions in California can set back delivery. LCBA will email those who order as soon as we know the date. Also, bees must be picked up on the delivery date & hived promptly: if necessary, you can make arrangements for a family member or friend to pick up your bees - please email [secretary@lcba.community](mailto:secretary@lcba.community) with the name of your designee.

### **Bee Pickup Places:**

**#1: Beeline Apiaries**, 19019 Moon Road SW, Rochester 98579 [off Hwy 12]; Mentoring: LCBA will have a pop up tent at Beeline on delivery day with mentors & info handouts to help new or nearly-new beekeepers; also mini marshmallows for queen hiving.

**#2: JC Bees** orders will be picked up from Dan Maughan's, 123 Goff Road, Chehalis 98532 [off Hwy 6].

**Sales Tax:** Those who present proof of 2018 Washington State hive registration can buy bees from Beeline Apiaries tax free. Both prices with and without sales tax are noted below.

**To register your hives with Washington State, go to the WSDA website:**

<http://agr.wa.gov/FP/Forms/PP/docs/6116-Beekeeper-BrokerRegistration.pdf>. Cost of registration is \$5 for 1 to 5 colonies, \$10 for 6 to 25 colonies (see form for costs for apiaries with over 25 colonies).

***LCBA does not warrant and cannot guarantee the quality of bees ordered. Order details are on the order forms, attached in PDF. In the event of queen failure, members will have ten days to contact LCBA President Kevin Reichert: if it can be established that the queen was defective, a replacement queen will be made available at no cost.***

## 2018 Lewis County Extension Workshops



*[Above, bee on blueberries, Pixabay \(public domain CC0 1.0\)](#)*

*WSU Lewis County Extension has a wide array of workshops planned for 2018. Class costs will vary and be announced as class details are finalized. Save the dates to join on any or all of the dates below. The folks at Extension hope to see you there!*

*For details, visit: <http://preservesummer.cahnrs.wsu.edu>. For more information or to register contact Kim Weiland 740-1212 or email [kimberly.weiland@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:kimberly.weiland@lewiscountywa.gov).*

### Workshop Schedule:

**March 6 Know Your Soils, Fort Borst Kitchen #1**

**March 10 Grow/Prune/Fertilize Blueberries, Providence Demo Garden**

**Mar 13 Advanced Composting, Chehalis Timberland Library**

**March 23 Fermentation, location TBD**

**April 20 Heritage Cooking, location TBD**

### **First Tuesdays with WSU Lewis County Extension Services**

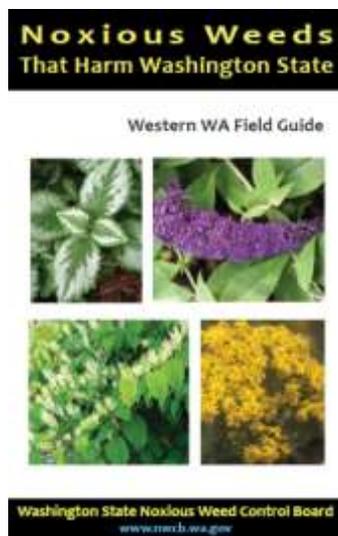
**When:** Tuesday, March 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Where:** Salkum Timberland Library, 2480 Highway 12, Salkum WA, 98582

**What:** Representatives from the WSU Lewis County Extension Service Master Recyclers, Composters, & Gardeners will be at Salkum Timberland Library on first Tuesdays of each month to answer questions about soils, plant identification, composting, & Extension service trainings & workshops. Come chat with people knowledgeable about our local homestead challenges!

## Notes from LCBA's February 8: LCBA Monthly Meeting

### Speaker: Bill Wamsley: Noxious Weeds & Bee Forage



***Some Updates on Mead-Making from Antony Richfield:*** LCBA President Kevin Reichert opened our meeting by re-introducing Antony Richfield, our January speaker, who had asked to make a few corrections to the previous month's talk on mead making. Antony noted that if you follow the directions that he gave last time (see the February 2018 LCBA Newsletter), you're golden. Just a few details. He noted that carbonic, not carbolic, acid is a byproduct of mead-making, and that he had intended to refer to sulfonic acid, not sulfite. Antony also apologized to makers of One Step cleanser – it is almost identical to Oxi-Clean, so it can be used. Antony recommends that if you use Oxi-Clean to sanitize your equipment, use unscented. Re: gruels as flavoring items, Antony wanted to add that some put in wood chips for a woody flavor – Antony says that if you like that flavor, go ahead, but remember that wood is a porous material, yeast and other ingredients will sit in the pores, and it is hard to sanitize wood. Some will try to smoke you and say that using wood chips is the traditional way: yes, mead is ancient, and barrels, an Iron Age invention, came along after mead was invented. If you really want to be traditional, go with an earthenware pot (though beware because that, too, is porous). Finally, Antony noted that he didn't give a complete answer concerning measuring ingredients during fermentation process. If you want to make a sweet mead and want to add sulfites to stop the yeast process, then yes, you should monitor sugar amounts; another reason to monitor sugar would be if you are seeking a sparkling wine. Kevin thanked Antony for coming back to update us.

### **Bill Wamsley: Beekeeper Stewardship: Awareness of Noxious and Native Plants for Honey Bee Habitat**

Kevin welcomed Bill Wamsley, our Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board Coordinator. Bill shared his email - wamsleyb@wsu.edu – and noted that though the Lewis County Extension Office may be moving, Noxious Weed Control will still be in housed in the Old Courthouse. Bill shared his slideshow with us: it is posted on LCBA's website under Monthly Meetings.



***What Are Noxious Weeds?*** Bill defined noxious weeds as non-native plants that threaten our forest, agricultural, and urban lands, impacting both public health and the general health and diversity of our ecosystems. Among the impacts made by noxious weeds, they reduce habitat for native and endangered species; increase fire hazards; degrade riparian systems; increase soil erosion; interfere with forest seedling establishment; impact quality and quantity of forage for livestock.

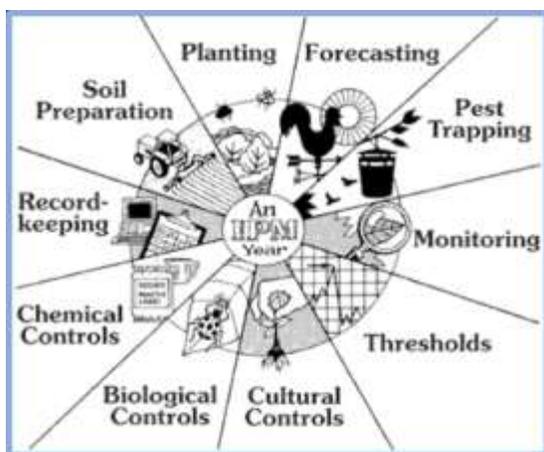
***Class A, B, & C Noxious Weeds:*** There are three categories of noxious weeds. Class A Noxious Weeds are his department's highest priority: there are 36 species, such as giant hogweed. Class B includes 67 species: the state mandated control actions for Class B weeds vary throughout state, based on distribution. For Class B weeds, control, not eradication, is the goal: for example, spotted knapweed and scotch broom. They are trying to stop scotch broom from moving up the North Fork of the Neuwaukum River and also Lincoln Creek. There other areas in Winlock where power lines go through that are harder to manage. Finally, Class C noxious weeds include 51 species with distribution generally widespread throughout the state, for example Canada thistle. Blackberries, which are key bee forage, are on this list, which is reviewed and updated annually by State Program.

***How do the weed laws work today?*** The most recent update has been to preserve forage plants for pollinators (2016). Malta starthistle has been added as noxious, and so have jewelweeds and impatiens [not like the annual flowering garden plant]. The weed laws are administered at three levels: WSDA, which handles Quarantines, Project funding for Management/ Control (Spartina, Invasive Knotweed); the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, which works on the Weed list, education, federal & tribal cooperation; and County Boards, which manage the weed list with local priorities in mind, as well as education, federal and tribal cooperation, and technical assistance.

***Weed Management*** is divided by weed types, production systems, and land use: Forest; forage systems; horticulture – orchard, vineyard, Christmas trees, berries; crops annual – truck garden, local market; home landscape and garden. There are different types of weeds in these different areas.

***Integrated Pest Management*** is the preferred method for weed management. It is a full tool box including prevention, cultural methods, herbicides, mechanical or physical controls, and even

biologicals, such as goats! IPM is a systemic approach that focuses first on preventing problems. Goals are good plant health, understanding plant culture, monitoring, which is an ongoing process, pest identification, tolerance level, pest control strategies, treatment monitoring and evaluation. Typically, Bill noted, we are growing something else that we want to cultivate, so we work from there. What do our *good* plants need? As with monitoring Varroa mites, we must monitor weed levels and understand their cycle to eradicate or manage them. If you're growing sweet corn or something similar, such plants can tolerate a certain degree of invasive weeds, but gardeners need to have in mind a threshold when control has to be applied.



*Left, IPM approaches; right, four-legged weed control*

**Pest identification** involves distinguishing between pests and beneficial insects, including knowing which pests don't carry pathogens. Understanding the life cycle of pests, as well as their impacts, and understanding management strategies for pests is crucial in controlling them. Also, consider pest tolerance level: what is the acceptable injury threshold level?

**Weed management** includes both prevention and cultural practices. Some may opt to use cover crops and mulch to prevent noxious weeds getting a foothold; some may allow some weeds in grass. Mowing: some use large, flail-like mowers or brush hogs to clear weeds from larger areas. Chemical controls require precision in calculations, equipment, and application. Application types include broadcast and selective: in selective application, gardeners are considering placement, directed application, timing. Herbicide types include selective, non-selective; contact, foliar active; systemic; pre- and post-emergent. In one of Bill's slides, a man is measuring the band of his spray width so as to consider how much to use.

**Key Noxious Weeds in Southwest Washington** include garlic mustard, butterfly bush, clematis, English ivy, spurge laurel, blackberry (both Himalayan and evergreen), canary grass, kudzu, knapweed.

**Garlic Mustard** is a new weed for us, and it is Class A. It is a short-lived annual, with white flowers, seed pods like other brassicas, and a garlic odor. It has white flowers, which is relatively unusual for mustard. It grows well in a shade environment. Bob asked how is it damaging: Bill said that it out-competes native vegetation



Above left, Garlic Mustard; middle, kudzu; right, knotweed

**Kudzu** is another Class A noxious weed: it is a perennial that flowers from July through September. It has divided or lobed leaves and climbing vines. In Clark County, someone saw it on a fence. We get wild cucumber along the Chehalis River - that is a kudzu that is not noxious. However, clematis, also called “Old Man’s Beard,” is noxious.

**Butterfly bush** is a Class B noxious weed: “Now I’m getting crosswise with a pollinator group,” Bill said. Butterfly bush is a perennial woody shrub, spread by seed, increasing in population, especially near Seattle; it is now showing up along I-5 in the Mellen Street area. OSU has done good work selling gardeners sterile butterfly bushes that don’t spread seed. Bill says if you see seedlings, that gets his attention: you can eradicate seedlings.

Spurge laurel, class b, evergreen woody shrub, flowering now, small inconspicuous flower in some wooded areas.

**Invasive knotweed** is a Class B noxious weed known for its seed production. In the last few years, WSDA has been trying to control it in riparian areas along the Chehalis River. It is a magnet to bees. It has Bohemian, Giant, and Himalayan types. It does crowd out a lot of native willows and cottonwood. Bill is not sure how much of a nectar source knotweed is. Dan said that knotweed does produce nectar, but makes a yucky honey; Peter added that someone brought some knotweed honey to a meeting once – it had the consistency of molasses and tasted bad. Bill commented that knotweed is hard to get rid of: it also messes with fish habitat. Plant gets broken up and redistributed. It is even in the Cowlitz River now. They try to stop it high in the headwaters so that it cannot work its way downstream. At one point knotweed was popular because it is so easy to propagate: it is from the same family as rhubarb but does not taste as good.

**Scotch broom** is a Class B noxious weed that flowers from March through June. Bill sees some bees on broom, but it flowers in spring, when bees have many forage choices. Bob commented that in his experience, Scotch broom is a last resort for bees. The plant has three parted leaves. It has a seed viability of 20 to 30 years, with 18,000 seeds in a mature plant! Pamela asked what is the best way to get rid of it. Bill said the cute answer is not to let it get started, but that seriously, there are mechanical treatments like a weed wrench to pull it out. It can be lopped repeatedly. Brush hogging works, and herbicides are available.

**Spotted knapweed** is a Class B noxious weed: it is a perennial which flowers from July through September. Knapweed has 25,000 seeds/ plant. It has divided or lobed leaves and single or multiple stalks. Bill noted that he definitely sees bees on knapweed: it is persistent and likes



*Above left, Scotch Broom; middle, spotted knapweed; right, meadow knapweed*

disturbed soil areas. Dan said that his father's eastern Washington ranch has a lot of knapweed, and they brought in a little fly to control it: the fly eats the seeds. Bill commented that there is also meadow knapweed in the Winlock area: it was planted many years ago, when it was thought to have forage value. The Weed Board also brings in a weevil to eat the seeds: a nice example of using biologicals. Bill pointed out that the WSDA doesn't willy-nilly put out biological controls: assessing their effect is a process and can be as expensive as developing a new pesticide. They are still looking for a biological control for knotweed.

**Blackberries** are Class C Noxious Weeds: *rubus laciniatus* is the evergreen, and *rubus armeniacus* is the Himalayan. It is hard to get rid of, spreading both via seeds and vegetatively.

Still other noxious weeds include tansy ragwort and thistle. Bill was asked about milkweed: butterflies like it. Some milkweed is seen on the east side of the Cascades, but Bill is not aware that it is in our area – it favors dry weather.

**Resources for learning more about Noxious Weeds:** Bill highlighted *Weeds of the West; Plants of the Pacific Northwest; Northwest Weeds; Weeds of the Northeast; Pacific Northwest Weed Control Handbook*. Online sources include the University of California's IPM Weed Photo gallery (<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/index.html>) and the Weed Control Handbook (<http://pnwpest.org/pnw/weeds>).

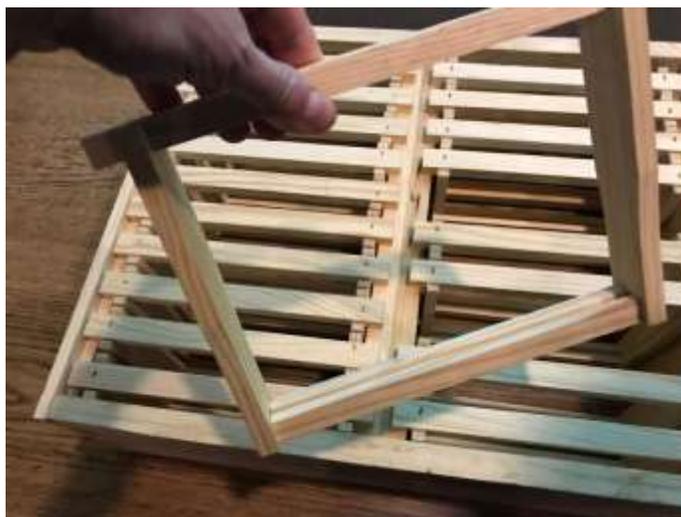
**Beekeepers and stewardship:** Dr. Tim Lawrence of WSU has been pushing since 2015 to plant more flowers for our honey bees. He and Steve Shepard did a study and found that neonicotinoids were not found in pollen and beeswax from urban areas in Washington State.

**Finding common ground in preserving bee forage and controlling weeds:** Bill noted that the issue is how to have both. Bill recommends replacing noxious weeds with native plants and/or non-invasive forage plants. The detrimental impacts of noxious weeds outweigh the value of pollen/nectar coming from flowering weeds: a key example is knotweed. Weed control actions that minimize disturbance to bees are ideal. Bill recommended planting cover crops. These fall into three categories. There are Cereals, including cereal rye, oats, and wheat. Legumes include hairy vetch, common vetch, crimson clover, Austrian winter pea, and fava bean. Herbaceous cover crops include buckwheat, brassica (mustards). Bill noted that the Xerces Society has pollinator plant lists for both native and garden plants.

**Lewis County Roadside Vegetation Management:** Purposes of roadside vegetation management include traffic safety, maintenance of road surface, shoulder, and outer zone; management of noxious weeds on right of ways; considering needs and concerns of adjacent landowners. They

take an integrated approach featuring seasonally timed control measures – such as mowing, herbicides (narrow broadcast, selective); selective cutting; specific treatments; and re-seeding of disturbed sites. They monitor thresholds of vegetation, and management varies across the road systems. If there is a lot of traffic, they are careful with herbicides. Bob asked is any enforcement going on now. Bill said that they want voluntary compliance from land owners, but the next step would be to send out a notice of violation letter if they cannot make contact with the landowner or the landowner is not doing anything. This is more for Class A and B-designated weeds. A lot of door knocking goes on! Kevin thanked Bill for a very informative talk, and we took a break before moving to the business meeting.

### February Business Meeting Notes



*Dan Maughan displays mating nuc frames that he plans to use for cut comb honey this year.*

**Using Mating Nuc Frames for Cut Comb Honey:** Dan Maughan showed an interesting new technique that he is going to try this year to make cut comb honey: special small frames the size of the cut comb, made from mating nuc frames. Dan reported that he has talked with John Edwards about woodenware and honey supering: Dan had a brainstorm that in making cut comb honey, rather than trying to cut that fragile comb out of the frame with honey dripping off the sides, and rather than using expensive Ross Rounds, why not try mating nuc frames, put them in a super, let bees draw them out like in normal cut comb frame, and then, at the end of the season, instead of taking the frame and cutting out the honey, take out the mating nuc frame of cut comb honey – and sell that. Dan displayed Mann Lake frames: they are not expensive, and they yield about twice as much as normal cut comb honey samples do, so, Dan suggests, this could make your super pay off quickly. Steve Howard noted that a full frame would be close to 2 pounds, depending in part on how wide the bees draw their comb. Dan said, “Well, maybe it’s not easy, but *easier*.” Bob Harris asked whether, in our short growing season, bees would have time to draw the comb and still fill it with honey? Dan said that he would try and find out. Kevin asked Dan to report back later in the season on how it goes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rick reported that LCBA's current account balance is \$4,403.01; the savings account holds \$5,000.66; and our Youth Scholarship fund has \$2,922.79. We have paid \$160 to Centralia College in tuition for our four scholarship students. Kevin noted that our beginning beekeeping class, taught through Centralia's Continuing Education Program, enrolled 51 students; Kevin welcomed students from the class who had come to this meeting.

**Audit Committee:** Steve Grega and William Pittman served as our 2017 Audit Committee. Rick noted that the audit report is usually given at the February monthly meeting so that the treasurer can incorporate the year-end statement, which isn't available until January.

Steve reported for the committee that on January 19, he and William did the audit of LCBA's general and scholarship accounts and that Rick provided documentation of all expenditures in all categories from January 1 to December 31 of 2017. Steve noted that all balances and entries matched down to the penny with no questionable charges: the beginning balance was \$4,842.40; the ending balance was \$2,774.01, plus \$5,000 in savings. 27 checks had been written with none voided. Some checks had not been cashed, and Steve and Rick noted that the board is looking into getting new checks with a "void after 60 days" notation printed on them. LCBA's major expenditure each year is definitely the bee orders, with about \$27,000 spent last year: this is a pass through from members to our vendor.

Steve also noted the establishment of LCBA's savings account to safeguard association funds by not having everything accessible in the checking account. Re: the Youth Scholarship account, the different transactions are primarily for gear, tuition, and bees.

Notes and recommendations: LCBA's 2017 membership was 117: at \$40 each in dues, that's \$4,680. Steve and William recommend that bee order spreadsheets note which orders were taxed and which not (because of registering hives with the state). They also recommended that since Southwest Washington Fair expenses are getting bigger, the board should review them and set a limit. Finally, Steve and William commended Rick for doing a great job as treasurer, keeping everything in clear order. Kevin added that "Rick is as honest as the day is long, and I'm proud to have him on the board."

**2018 bee orders:** Susanne displayed a slide with this year's bee prices (see page 4, above). Kevin noted that this year, LCBA will pay 50% down and hold the rest until delivery of the bees: this will help protect the club in case of any accidents or problems. Beeline Apiaries brought us the lowest bid, which will be finalized at the February board meeting. Kevin has already talked at length with Harold about the procedures. This year, LCBA is not going to be distributing Beelines' bees, just LCBA's. Prices have gone up slightly from last year, when a three pound package cost \$102, to this year's price of \$107. The price of the 4 pound packages has not changed. Queens have gone up \$5, as have nucs.

**Purchase options:** Kevin noted that this year, members will have a couple of options on bee order night. The first option is Beeline; the second is JC Bees, Juan Carlos Valdovinos, a commercial beekeeper. From JC Bees, LCBA members can order pallets of 4 established one-box hives for \$600; these will be delivered to Dan's farm. Dan has a forklift to move them: those who buy pallets will need to bring a rig capable of moving them at delivery time. JC Bees will also sell us nucs. (For details, see pages 4-5, above.)

**Delivery:** For delivery, Beeline's time frame probably will be mid-April. JC Bees may come in early May, after pollination has finished: they will be going from almonds to apples and then to us. Also, JC Bees' nucs will probably have caged queens.

**Additional bee purchase options:** Members who want additional options outside the club discount can check with Kevin Mills of Hive 5 Bees: Kevin M. was going to offer nucs at \$140 each with local queens, but his orders filled so fast that now this deal is not available. Those who would like to place orders with Kevin M now will get Kona (Hawaiian) queens. The nucs from Juan Carlos will also have Kona queens. Last but not least, Kevin noted that Alan Woods will sell LCBA members nucs for a club price of \$135 [for non-LCBA members, it's \$145]; Alan's queens will be local, and he will have nucs available sometime in April.

**Sales Tax and Hive Registration:** Kevin explained that for Beeline Apiary orders, those who can produce proof of 2018 WSDA hive registration do not pay tax. Peter Glover pointed out that registration is not expensive: for example, it costs \$ 10 to register 6 to 25 hives. Those who register hives also do not have to pay tax on woodenware. Walt Wilson noted that you can register the hives online, mail a check, and they email you the confirmation. Steve Howard said that the process took about two weeks altogether.

**Discussion:** Kevin and Bob commented that while nucs give the advantage of starting with an already established colony, for beginners, there is great learning value in starting with a package and seeing how the bees build up. Peter noted that it can be interesting to buy a package of Carniolans and a package of Italians, then see how they are different. Alan Woods offered to sponsor one youth scholar with bees, gear, etc.; everyone thanked him.

**Beginning Beekeeping Class:** Education Coordinator Peter Glover reported that the class is going well with 51 students. The board members are taking turns teaching segments of the class. As of this meeting, there were two class meetings left. Peter noted that all four youth scholarship students are doing very well on their tests, as are all the students.

**Club Apiary Report** – Kevin noted that our Apiary manager, Cody Warren, was celebrating his wedding anniversary with Linnea this evening, so Kevin reported on Cody's behalf that so far, our last three colonies are still alive; Bob said they were flying today. With the widening of North Fork Road, the bees will have to be moved back away from the road: Bob and Cody have put down stakes for where they will go. The board will buy several nucs and packages with a target of maintaining ten colonies at the apiary. Kevin Mills has offered to donate three nucs to the apiary. We have a top bar hive at the apiary and will put a package in it; we may also have a long hive, and would like to be able to demonstrate different hive options since this is a teaching apiary. Steve Howard asked how much woodenware we have: Bob said that we have five hive setups left over; the board may have to buy some, and possibly some members would donate woodenware. Steve said that he is willing to donate a hive/swarm. Bob notes that a donation could be as simple as giving a bottom board.

**Upcoming Events (see pages 2-3, above):** Susanne updated members on our upcoming meetings. Kevin Mills will speak at our April 12 meeting about queen-rearing in the Pacific Northwest; Debra Langley of West Sound Beekeepers will present on May 10 about the Slovenian A-Z hive design.

**Mason Bee Block Giveaway:** Kimo Thielges announced that he will have mason bee starting blocks at Gardening For Everyone on February 17.



*Above left, after adding a dry, clean moisture control box, bees make their way back to the hive; above right, bees with early spring pollen (see the one on the right with pink pollen – possibly alder?)*

**Bee care in late winter/early spring:** Many have already lost some colonies. This week is going to be warm, so Kevin suggested that Saturday looks like a good day to check them.

**Late winter/early spring feeding:** Kevin is thinking about feeding pollen patties in addition to hard candy, but he would not do this until the end of February: pollen stimulates the queen to lay, and the danger of the queen laying too soon is that there may not be enough forage ready over the coming month to sustain a growing colony: this is called Spring Dwindle, and bees are especially susceptible to collapsing if we get a cold snap later, as we did last year in March. Kevin also noted that it is too early and too cold to feed syrup: he recommends keeping the bees on hard candy, then maybe pollen at the end of month. Terrie Philips asked why not feed syrup, noting that when there are a few warm days, she can put on a Boardman feeder and the bees will drink it down.: Kevin said you can, but the bees don't like cold syrup. When the weather is consistently in 60s, then syrup is fine but not now. Gottfried Fritz noted that his bees were bringing white pollen back. Tree pollens are coming on now.

**Moisture control:** Stevan Mayer and Starla Lago lost a hive to what seemed like moisture excess – they saw bees flying, but the bees turned out to be robbers. If a hive is inhabited, bees will keep it clean, and there will not be much moisture. Kevin reminded members to check burlap and chips in moisture boxes and be sure not to leave wet stuff in the hive. Gottfried noted if bees are sited facing south with shade, watch out for Nosema - look for those dark streaks on top of the frames. They can be treated with Fumagillen mixed into 2:1 syrup.

**Yellowjackets:** put out traps now to get the queens, who over-winter, now, before they multiply.

**A Swarm Story:** Finally, Walt Wilson shared a story from his recent trip to Belize. A swarm of honey bees landed near the bar, and people freaked out. Walt stopped them from killing the bees by putting his hand into the middle of the swarm without being stung: all were amazed, and the bees soon moved on.

## HONEY RECIPES OF THE MONTH

### Curried Honey Sweet Potato Soup (National Honey Board)

**Ingredients (for 4 to 6 servings)**

- 1 T olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 medium-sized cloves garlic, peeled
- 6 cups (48 oz.) chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 lb. sweet potatoes, peeled, cut into chunks
- 2 medium russet potatoes, peeled, cut into chunks
- 2 tsp Salt
- 1/4 cup honey, divided
- 1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 2 - 3 tsp. curry powder
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro, optional



**Directions:**

Heat oil over medium-high heat in a soup pot. Add onion and sauté until translucent, 2 to 3 minutes. Add garlic and sauté 1 minute. Add stock, potatoes and salt. Cover and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes. Puree mixture in batches, put soup back over low heat and add honey, bell pepper, curry powder, pepper and ginger. Bring to a simmer, taste and adjust seasonings. Serve soup with croutons or crostini and sprinkled with chopped cilantro, if desired.

### Spicy Honey Vinaigrette [National Honey Board]

**Ingredients for 3/4 cup**

- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 2 T honey
- 2 T prepared Szechwan sauce
- 1 T soy sauce
- 1 small clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp. grated ginger root
- 1/8 tsp. coarsely ground pepper
- 3 T vegetable oil



**Directions:** Combine all ingredients except oil; mix well. Gradually whisk in oil; blend well.

## Honey Sriracha Grilled Wings [National Honey Board]

### *Ingredients for 8 servings:*

2 cups honey  
 4 lbs. fresh chicken wings  
 3 cups rice wine vinegar  
 1/4 cup Sriracha  
 2 T salt



### *Directions:*

Place wings in a large bowl and rinse with cool water. Add rice wine vinegar, sriracha, salt and 1/2 of the honey. Fold to incorporate all the ingredients and coat the wings evenly.

Using the slow and low method of BBQ'ing, set grill temperature to 225-240°F. If using coals, let them burn off and move over to one side of the grill.

Place the wings on the grill, cover with a lid and cook for 12-14 minutes before turning once and letting them cook for an additional 15-18 minutes. Open the lid and turn the wings one more time. Brush the remaining honey onto the wings. Let the wings cook for 5-8 more minutes, remove from heat and serve them up hot and juicy!

## BEES IN THE NEWS

*Thanks to Steve Norton, William Pittman, and Phil Wilson for sharing bee news stories!*

### **“Think Of Honey Bees As ‘Livestock,’ Not Wildlife, Argue Experts”: Bee Culture’s “Catch the Buzz,” February 23, 2018**

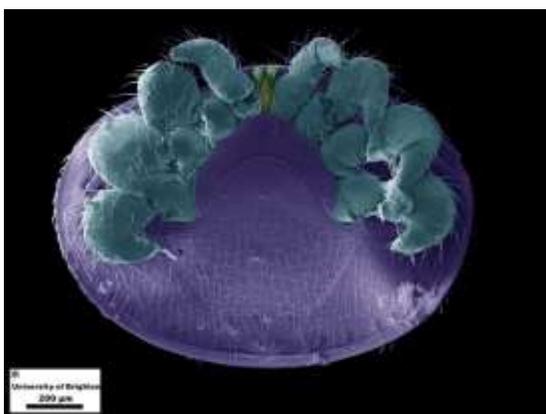
An interesting perspective on beekeeping as animal husbandry: “Honeybees are artificially-bred agricultural animals similar to livestock such as pigs and cows. Except this livestock can roam beyond any enclosures to disrupt local ecosystems through competition and disease.”

To read the entire article, visit: [http://www.bee-culture.com/catch-buzz-think-honey-bees-livestock-not-wildlife-argue-experts/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=f9aa04aa5e-Catch\\_The\\_Buzz\\_4\\_29\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0272f190ab-f9aa04aa5e-256261065](http://www.bee-culture.com/catch-buzz-think-honey-bees-livestock-not-wildlife-argue-experts/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=f9aa04aa5e-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-f9aa04aa5e-256261065)

***How Many Bees Are Too Many? An Interesting Perspective from New Zealand: “Too Many Bees, No Matter Where, Can Be A Bad Thing for Bees, Beekeepers and Anybody in the Fecal Flight Path,”*** Bee Culture’s Catch the Buzz, February 23, 2018. To read, visit:

[http://www.bee-culture.com/catch-buzz-many-bees-no-matter-can-bad-thing-bees-beekeepers-anybody-fecal-flight-path/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=7a8618009d-Catch\\_The\\_Buzz\\_4\\_29\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0272f190ab-7a8618009d-256261065](http://www.bee-culture.com/catch-buzz-many-bees-no-matter-can-bad-thing-bees-beekeepers-anybody-fecal-flight-path/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=7a8618009d-Catch_The_Buzz_4_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-7a8618009d-256261065)

**Magnified photographs of the pinhead-sized Varroa destructor mite, captured by Dr. Jonathan Salvage of the University of Brighton (UK), using a state-of-the-art scanning electron microscope (SEM):**



See: <https://mailchi.mp/americanbeejournal/march-1-2018-the-mite-thats-killing-the-bees?e=e9ff21e0bb>

**“Sick Bees Eat Healthier”:** Bee Culture’s Catch the Buzz, February 8 2018. “When given the option to forage on artificial flowers with either high quality pollen, lower quality pollen, or sugar water, healthy bees showed no pollen preference. However, twice as many [Nosema] infected bees selected the higher quality pollen than the lower quality pollen. To read the complete article, visit: <https://mailchi.mp/americanbeejournal/february-8-2018-sick-bees-eat-healthier?e=e9ff21e0bb>



*Above, image of bee on pollen from Bee Culture.*

**“Neonicotinoid pesticides and nutritional stress synergistically reduce survival in honey bees”: Proceedings of the Royal Society, Biology Sciences, December 20, 2017**

“The honey bee is a major pollinator whose health is of global concern. Declines in bee health are related to multiple factors, including resource quality and pesticide contamination. Intensive agricultural areas with crop monocultures potentially reduce the quality and quantity of available nutrients and expose bee foragers to pesticides. However, there is, to date, no evidence for synergistic effects between pesticides and nutritional stress in animals. The neonicotinoids clothianidin (CLO) and thiamethoxam (TMX) are common systemic pesticides that are used worldwide and found in nectar and pollen. We therefore tested if nutritional stress (limited access to nectar and access to nectar with low-sugar concentrations) and sublethal, field-realistic acute exposures to two neonicotinoids (CLO and TMX at 1/5 and 1/25 of LD50) could alter bee survival, food consumption and haemolymph sugar levels. Bee survival was synergistically reduced by the combination of poor nutrition and pesticide exposure (−50%). Nutritional and pesticide stressors reduced also food consumption (−48%) and haemolymph levels of glucose (−60%) and trehalose (−27%). Our results provide the first demonstration that field-realistic nutritional stress and pesticide exposure can synergistically interact and cause significant harm to animal survival. These findings have implications for current pesticide risk assessment and pollinator protection.” <http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/284/1869/20171711>

**“U.S. Scientists Found Neonicotinoid Insecticides In About Three-Quarters Of Samples From 10 Major Great Lakes Tributaries”** *Bee Culture’s Catch the Buzz*, February 8, 2018. Visit: [http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-u-s-scientists-found-neonicotinoid-insecticides-three-quarters-samples-10-major-great-lakes-tributaries/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=b438e0c2ee-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0272f190ab-b438e0c2ee-256261065](http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-u-s-scientists-found-neonicotinoid-insecticides-three-quarters-samples-10-major-great-lakes-tributaries/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=b438e0c2ee-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-b438e0c2ee-256261065)



***Bayer’s new pesticide, Sivanto, claims to be “bee-friendly” – but is it? Bee Culture’s Catch the Buzz raises concerns in this article: “Perhaps Bees Should Adopt The Saying, “God Save Me From My Friends”: Catch the Buzz, February 2, 2018.*** To read the full article, visit: [http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-perhaps-bees-adopt-saying-god-save-friends/?utm\\_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm\\_campaign=c538dcc6d1-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0272f190ab-c538dcc6d1-256261065](http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-perhaps-bees-adopt-saying-god-save-friends/?utm_source=Catch+The+Buzz&utm_campaign=c538dcc6d1-Catch+The+Buzz+4+29+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0272f190ab-c538dcc6d1-256261065) .



*Above, honey bee hives in Wadi Itlah, Egypt (credit: Olivia Norfolk, Anglia Ruskin University)*

**“Introduced Honey Bees Could Cause Plant Extinction Honey bees out-compete local pollinators, which play vital specialist role in plant pollination”:** **American Bee Journal, February 9 2018:** A new study in Egypt suggests that when honey bees are introduced to rural environments, they may out-forage local pollinator species that are specialized to fertilize native plant species: both pollinators and native plants face higher risk of extinction. The study suggests that caution is warranted for NGOs that provide bee colonies to farmers in struggling rural areas. To read more, visit: <https://mailchi.mp/americanbeejournal/february-9-2018-introduced-honey-bees-could-cause-plant-extinction?e=e9ff21e0bb> .

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LCBA Dues:** Members are invited to bring 2018 dues (\$40 per individual) to our March 8 monthly meeting. The form is on our website (<http://lewiscountybeekeepers.org/home/membership>) Hard copies will be available. Please don't forget to fill out the “hold harmless agreement” on the back – thank you!

**Western Apicultural Society Newsletters:** [http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/WAS\\_Journal](http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/WAS_Journal). Click on the line in the paragraph on the right as directed. If you're still getting the old issue, click on "empty cache" in your browser or "refresh" or "reload" under VIEW in your menu bar.

**WASBA Newsletter:** Pick up your copy of this bimonthly online at [www.wasba.org](http://www.wasba.org): click on "Newsletters." The July Newsletter's cover story is LCBA's Youth Scholarship Program!

*That's all for now ~ take care, & bee happy!*

~~ Susanne Weil, LCBA Secretary ([Secretary@lcba.community](mailto:Secretary@lcba.community); 360 880 8130)