

Dear Beekeepers,

This is a quick informational email - your February LCBA Newsletter will come your way later this month, with a writeup of Rick Battin's fine presentation on mason bees (meanwhile, you can see a PDF of Rick's slideshow on our website: https://www.lewiscountybeekeepers.org/monthly_meetings and scroll down to January 2020 meeting).

February 12 meeting topic: *What Beekeepers Can Learn from Wild Honey Bees.* Tom Seeley's new book, *The Lives of Bees*, reveals how wild bees in the Appalachians have developed resistance to Varroa mites and have better winter survival than managed colonies. Seeley compares the survival traits of wild v. managed bees and offers specific recommendations for things we can do as beekeepers to improve our bees' survival. LCBA Secretary/Journeyman beekeeper Susanne Weil will summarize Seeley's research and recommendations in a slideshow for discussion. Our meeting starts with a social time at 6, speaker at 6:30, and business meeting after a break at 7:30. **Reminder—we are back in Washington Hall 103 on the Centralia College campus** (701 W Walnut, Centralia WA 98531). Also at this meeting: Audit Committee report, Education program update, Apiary update, & a call for mentors to help support our big class of new beekeepers! Finally, we'll have an update on our continuing beekeeping education course, "Beesearch," set to start this March.

Update on 2020 Package Bee Orders: There will be more details at our February 12 meeting. **Bee orders will take place before our meeting on Wednesday, March 11 (exact times TBA);** as in years past, delivery will be sometime in April – we will announce a date as soon as we have it. **Also at our March 11 meeting: Dan Maughan will share how cold-storing his bees in Idaho led to far fewer losses (so far, fingers crossed!).**

LCBA Club Prices from Beeline Apiaries: 3 lb. Italian & Carniolan, \$120; 4 lb. Italian & Carniolan, \$135; 5 frame Italian & Carniolan nucs, \$153; Extra Queens Italian & Carniolan, \$ 43. Delivery date for the club is April 17 beginning at 12 noon. Date is subject to change, so please prepare to be flexible. On the pickup date, the board will have volunteers on hand to help with bee pickup and to answer questions.

LCBA Club Prices from Kevin Mills/Hive 5 Bees: We should have more details soon, but Kevin has offered to sell his nucs to LCBA members at a discount again this year.

Alan Woods is taking bee orders directly and offering a \$10/nuc discount for LCBA members (you have to let them know). His nucs are \$160. The bees are German Carnica and will be in new Pro-Nuc boxes and if you return the box in usable condition, they will give \$10 back. You can also just put a deposit on a nuc, which is \$60, and pay the balance by March; they would then take the \$10 discount off the balance when you pay at the store. Pickup will be at their store end of April/beginning of May, weather dependent. Packages are \$140 and LCBA members get a \$5 discount. Alan's contact information is on LCBA's website under Beekeeping Supplies.

LCBA Dues – to order bees through LCBA, one must be current on dues. LCBA dues are \$40 per voting member. Our 2020 membership form is available on our website (Membership is linked on the home

page: <https://www.lewiscountybeekeepers.org/home/membership>). We'll have paper copies at the Feb 12 meeting, too. Thank you for supporting LCBA's programs – our monthly meetings, website, workshops, youth scholarship and mentor programs, our new apiary, and more!

Questions about meetings, or any other LCBA matters? Please email Susanne at secretary@lcba.community, or call 360 880 8130.

Take care,

Susanne Weil, Secretary, LCBA