

The State of the Hive for TVBC (2012)

by Jeff Bergland – Chief Drone

The year 2012 started off really well for the Treasure Valley Beekeepers Club! Our membership was around 200+ beekeepers! Additionally, we participated in a number of great community outreach opportunities, like Bug Days and the Western Idaho Fair. We helped to get a Boise City Beekeeping Ordinance amended and passed. Finally, we cemented some relationships outside the club to help the TVBC grow and prosper like our relationships with Washington State University, the University of Oregon and possibly the University of Minnesota.

Officers for 2012:

Jeff Bergland, (Chief Drone), President

Marcia McChrystal, Vice –President

Chad Dickinson, Interim Vice-President

Treasurer (Keeper of the envelope), Dick Knapp

Secretary (Worker Bee), Karla Kimball

Committee Chairs:

M.J. Oresik, Web Queen

Stacy Beeles, Education and Community Outreach

Ken Price – Club Membership

Idaho Outdoor Association: In 2012, the club decided we needed a new venue for our meetings due to the size of the club and previous location at the Elks Lodge. That new location is: The Idaho Outdoor Association at 3401 S. Brazil Street, Boise, P.O. Box 15943, Idaho 83715. Our contact is Kathy Rosencrantz. This new location proved to be a very acceptable with respect to its proximity to Interstate 84 and available seating (130 plus seats). We do have to pay a rental fee of \$60.00 per month, but it is worth the cost to make the meetings more comfortable for everyone. We do not have to pay for months when we don't use the facility (typically April & December) so the yearly fee works out to \$600.00.

Extractors and fees: The board decided to purchase another extractor (\$399.95/Mann Lake) this year to bring the number of club extractors to 5. The beekeepers maintaining, checking them out and receiving the extractors back in 2012 were as follows:

Alan Herzfeld (Five Mile & Victory area) – Ph: 344-7797

Kevin Duesman (Harris Ranch/Northeast Boise area) – Ph: 861-7831

Todd Hayden – (36th and Hill Road) 3216 Tucker Road, Boise – Ph: 286-4826 Doug Cleveland (12th Avenue South, Nampa) Ph: 249-0780

Rex Larsen (Five Mile and Ustick Road) Ph; 841-1360

Doug Cleveland (Nampa); Ph: 249-0780

The board decided the extractor fee for 2012 would be \$5.00 for the first two days and \$5.00 for each additional day. We would re-visit the fee rental again in 2013.

Queens: Our club obtained 4 hygienic queens from Washington State University to rear and graft queen cells from and then offer free queen cells to the club members. The following club mentors hit the ground running this past spring by

breeding queens and grafting eggs into queen cells throughout the spring and summer. Steve Sweet, Kevin Duesman, Frank Grover, Dick Knapp, Doug Cleveland, Randy Johnson (plus Roel) and the Noyes Family (The Honey Store). We are going to partner again in 2013 with Steve Shepard (WSU) to get a few more queens to add more diversity and genetics to the Treasure Valley. When a queen cell was ready last year Marcia McChrystal maintained a list of beekeepers in need of a queen cell. She would inform those beekeepers when the queen cell was ready for pickup. The only requirement the club came had was that you must take a one hour mandatory class on how to introduce the queen cell to your hive. These ongoing classes were held at the Duesman Bee Ranch.

Boise City Ordinance: The Boise City Planning and Zoning Ordinance was amended and passed (June 9th, 2012) thanks to the efforts of Steve Sweet, Kevin Duesman, Cody Riddle (Planning and Zoning) and various other TVBC club members in attendance at the hearings. This amendment removed many obstacles for individuals wanting to hive bees in the City Limits of Boise City. The new ordinance eliminated a fee for registering, reduced acreage requirements, allowed for nucleus hives and gave the ordinance a better set of definitions for the beekeepers and the city to rely upon.

The Honey Store: The Noyes family has been and continues to be a truly good friend and asset to our club! In 2012 they provided many in our club members with packages or nucs to get the season kick started. Additionally, they provided a great place for the club to have our season opener spring barbecue and offered demonstrations for new club members on how to light a smoker as well as install packages or nuc's. They really are a great partner and friend to our club!

Swarms: 2012 was a banner year for swarms! Unlike 2011, when we only had around 240 swarms, the club ended up capturing over 439 swarms during the 2012 season! MJ Oresik, our clubs Web Queen, built on the club website (idabees.org) a fantastic system, whereby the public could pull up swarm catchers and swarm shadows names, location and phone number on a Google Map. Her efforts and those of our swarm catching club members really paid off!

Club Survey: Marcia McChrystal went to a tremendous amount of time and effort to put together a club survey for our membership to target where they wanted to see the club go and grow? Her efforts were rewarded with some great information from our members! First and foremost, try and shorten our meetings, when possible, and offer alternative education in areas we have not taught in the past. Some of those educational events are: making mead wine, candles, lip balm, lotion, queen rearing, creamed honey and some more advanced classes surrounding diseases and pests that are affecting the *Apis mellifera*. Additionally, some new hive manipulation techniques would be great like the Deemaree Method. Steve Sweet will be teaching that method in the coming months. Also, our members wanted to see more outside experts come to our meetings to further our education and understanding. There was much more information reflected in the survey and our 2013 officers will be working to further implement many of those great ideas!

Non Profit Status: Thanks to a decision by the board of directors of the TVBC and the efforts of Dick Knapp (Treasurer), the club is moving toward 501 (c) 7 nonprofit status! This will enable any monies collected by the club to be non-taxable. The process to achieve nonprofit status is going to take a few months into 2013, but we should get approval by March or April 2013 if all goes well. A very special thanks to Dick Knapp for leading the charge on this endeavor! He is doing it in his free time and not charging the club anything for all his hard work. I researched what this would have cost the club if we hired the work out and it would have cost the club between \$3,500.00 to \$5,000.00. Additionally, as part of this process we also amended the bylaws of the club.

IHIA Convention: The convention this year was a really GREAT one! We had excellent speakers and great information. Steve Sweet, one of our senior beekeepers with all the connections worked his magic to get two outstanding speakers to join our Hobbyist Session! The hobbyist session was well attended by club members. I believe we had over 40 club members for the 3 hour classes. Our guest speakers this year were Marla Spivak (University of Minnesota) and Steve Shepard (Washington State University). Steve Sweet came up with a great idea to give them each a unique “Made in Idaho” gift! They each received the “Golden Honey Bee Award”, which was designed and crafted by Stephanie Wilde, from her “Golden Bees” exhibit. (<http://tinyurl.com/acedyqv>). Additionally, the club made a

donation of \$500.00 to Washington State University to help fund their queen research and extend their partnership with our clubs queen rearing program.

Problems in the Hive: The Varroa Mite continues to be a pest to plague beekeepers in the club as well as the United States and beyond. We learned at the IHIA Convention that powdered sugar is not the answer! According to Marla Spivak (University of Minnesota) it is a waste of powdered sugar. That is unless, you are doing a powdered sugar roll with your bees to count mite loads. The best plan of attack is Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques which will involve the use of some herbal and possibly some synthetic treatments which have been approved for use by the State of Idaho. I won't get into specifics at this point, but we need to be more proactive about measuring Varroa levels in our hives and treating accordingly in the spring and fall, if necessary.

Master Beekeeping Program: The mentors in the club and the board decided that taking some form of Master Beekeeping Class and getting certification would be good for the club. This plan was proposed with the purpose of getting up to date information from the bee keeping industry, through a college run program, to the mentors and then have them consistently and uniformly convey that information to our club members throughout 2013 and beyond! It was decided that the cost of taking the college program would be at the sole expense of the individuals taking the class and not come from club monies. We also decided that the closest Master Beekeepers Program to Southwestern Idaho was offered by Oregon State University. Their Apprentice Level (one year) course will cost of \$100.00 and will be taught at the colleges annex in Hermiston, Oregon. The mentors attending this class are: Steve Sweet, Kevin Duesman, Frank Grover, Dick Knapp, Joe Leckie and Jeff Bergland. It is the long range plan of the TVBC to teach what we learn to our fellow club members and continue to seek additional education in the future. We are also working towards getting some form of Master Beekeeping Program in Idaho.

Treasurers report: We finished 2012 with \$2,488.52 in the clubs bank account. Some of this money may go towards required filing fees and possibly penalties related to the process achieving nonprofit status, although we are hoping these will be minor?

Membership: We ended 2012 with over 250+ club members! Bigger doesn't necessarily mean better, but in this case we have a great group of beeks that really enjoy the hobby of beekeeping, as well as the opportunity to offer their community service by capturing swarms as well as share their personal knowledge and experience with less experienced beekeepers and the public at large.

What is in store for 2013: The club is really going to need to rally and offer more participation and volunteering this coming year! Since this hobby is catching worldwide, our club will be asked to participate in a lot more events throughout 2013 and we all need to rise to the challenge and **VOLUNTEER** our time to make each activity a success!

Final Message from the former President: It has been my pleasure to work with all the officers, mentors and committee members in 2012 as well as all the fine club members that make up the TVBC! I appreciate all the time and efforts that each of you has given over my term as presidency. It looks by all accounts, that we are going to have an early spring in 2013, so get your hive boxes built and your swarm gear ready, because this should really be a great year!

Below are a few of the key events that our club participated in during the 2012 year.

2012 TVBC Events Calendar:

January 24th – 7-9:00 p.m. –Beginner Beekeeping Class – Frank Grover - \$15.00 – idahohoneybee.com

February 6th at 6:00 p.m. will be the Planning and Zoning Hearing at the State Capital.

February 8th and 15th – Community Education classes – Jeff Bergland and Kevin Duesman – Classes will be Feb. 8th (6-30-8-30 p.m. at Timberline H.S.) and Feb. 15th (6-30-8-30 p.m. at Hillside H.S.) Over 55 folks attended

February 11th – MJ and Stacy Beeles are teaching a 1 hour class at the Zamzow's (Darin Eisenbarth) on Overland and Eagle Road. 150 folks attended.

March 1st – Home School Class - (Stacy Beeles, Teacher) My name is Jeannie Erway and I am writing to see if there may be someone in your club who enjoys children who may be interested in teaching our home school co-op class about honeybees and beekeeping. We are going to be studying bees starting Thursday, March 1st and would love it if our kids could get some teaching from someone who has expert knowledge in the subject. We have 9 children in our co-op ranging in age from kindergarten to 5th grade. They are well behaved children and 5 mothers are also there to make sure the kids are quiet and respectful. We meet every Thursday from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. at Treasure Valley Bible Church which is located on the corner of Ustick and Cloverdale in Boise. If you know of anyone who may be interested in sharing their beekeeping knowledge with us, we would greatly appreciate it. You can respond to this e-mail or call me at 323-2856.

Thanks, Jeannie Erway

March 10th – “Build it and they will Come” - Noon until 4:00 p.m. at Kevin Duesman's home.

April 14th - The Honey Store – (Saturday) at 10:00 a.m. will be the club meeting. We will meet in the morning at the Noyes place in Fruitland – club barbecue - Orders can be taken starting January 2nd. Nuc's \$100.00/Packages \$80.00 – Receipts will be sent out by the Honey Store to those placing orders in order to make the process more clear for all concerned. If you can't pick them up at the club meeting in Fruitland at the club barbecue you **MUST** make arrangements with the Honey Store to hold your nuc/package or they will sell it to someone else.

April 28th – Unplug and Explore the Outdoors – location is at the Idaho Shakespeare grounds from 9:30 to 1:00 p.m.

<http://www.unplugandbeoutside.com/index.php/schedule/tv-activities/7-events/70>

June 23rd and June 24th – Idaho Green Expo at Western Idaho Fair – Joanie Bear (event coordinator) ph: 949-6058, www.IdahoGreenExpo.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

11am - 2pm. Karla Kimball, Todd Andersen

2 pm - 5 pm. Jimmy Smith, Doralee Smith, Ivalee Morrow

5 pm - 7 pm. Joe Leckie, Mike Wright, Emma Arnold

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

11am - 2pm. Randy Geile, Chuck Dimick, Scott Moreno

2 pm - 5 pm. Vicki Henderson, Bill Young, Lori Young

Randy Geile and Kevin Duesman will teach the 45 minute Basics of Beekeeping workshop at the Expo on Sunday, June 24 at 3 pm!!!!

August 17th through August 26th – Western Idaho Fair - We had 3 (3 hour shifts) each day at the fair. The shifts ran from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

August 25th (Saturday) Bug Days at the Idaho Botanical Gardens

September 8th – Hillcrest Library – 1 and ½ hour beekeeping class – Lynsey Juel instructor – Cell# 401-4242

First of all, thank you for talking with me today and your offer to help me locate a local beekeeper to do a short program on bees and bee-keeping at our library.

The program will be on Saturday, Sept. 8 and starts at 1:00 pm and runs usually till 2-2:30. We will have several fun things for the kids and their families to do, but I would really enjoy presenting the bees and how to care for them and their role in growing food for the world.

My contact information is:

Anny Feuerborn

Library! at Hillcrest

5642 W Overland

Boise, Idaho 83705

280-562-4669.

I look forward to hearing from you! Thanks so much.

Anny

September 19th, 2012 (Girl Scout Troop 694)

Hello Jeff,

Thank you for your willingness to teach us about being a beekeeper & bees. We very much appreciate it! Here are the dates we've scheduled to meet in September, and Spring months. Let me know what will work best for you. We don't mind waiting until later in the year. Also a heads up on your location would be great. Thank you again.

Sept. - 20th

March - 7th & 21st

April- 4th & 18th

May - 2nd & 16th

June - if you have any dates you'd like us to look at in June that would be fine too.

The kids last day of school is the 4th, so any date after that would be good.

5 Girls 9-10yrs old

2 Girls 6-7yrs old

You'll also have two Adults there to help, a GS Leader (myself), and a GS Co Leader.

We are there for the girls, but also to help you when needed.

Carisa Springer

Girl Scout Troop 694

September 20th, 2012 - LDS Church Youth Group at Jeff Berglands home – 6:15 p.m. – 14-17 year olds (Coed) – 17 students attending .

October 23rd, 2012 – Challenger School (Kindergarten) – George Cannon in our club taught the class

From: Kata <matheson_pk@msn.com>
To: "Christena" <melody216@juno.com>
Subject: Kindergarten visit
Date: Sat, 22 Sep 2012 10:14:20 -0600

Christena,

Hello, this is Kata Matheson. Last year you visited my class at Challenger School and shared your knowledge of bees with us. I was wondering if you would be able to come talk to us again this year. Our Insect/bugs unit is at the end of October. I am willing to move the lessons around so that you will be able to come.

Let me know and we can iron out the details. Thank you,

Kata Matheson