

# Treasure Valley Beekeepers Club

## Annual Report

### 2009

Following the Idaho Honey Industry Association 2007 Convention, the Treasure Valley hobbyist beekeepers organized and formed the Treasure Valley Beekeepers Club. At the end of 2008, the Club's roster included 46 members. Today, the roster has reached a count of 89.

The Club continues to conduct monthly meetings at 7 pm on the third Monday of each month. Early in the year, thanks to the generosity of the State of Idaho and Mike Cooper, the Idaho State Bee Inspector, the club met at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Today, the monthly meetings are held at the Idaho Pizza Company in Meridian. During the course of 2009, the Club held regular meetings between February and December, with attendance averaging approximately 30 beekeepers per meeting.

Financially, the Club has a cash reserve of approximately \$300 prior to December. Cash increased during the year as a result of generous contributions made through Club raffles and through the public's appreciation of swarm catching activities by Club members.

In 2009, the Club benefitted from the financial generosity of three members and acquired three major items. John and Dorine Taggart donated a 4-frame, hand crank extractor. The extractor is now available to Club members at a nominal price (\$5/day) on a first-come, first serve basis. Roger Rosentreter donated a binocular microscope to be used for *Nosema* spp. identification. The Club has yet to develop the expertise necessary for accurate testing for the spores. Kevin Duesman commissioned the creation of the Club banner and made a generous donation during the Bug Days activity.

At the regular November meeting, Club members agreed to collect dues in 2010. Dues will be used to pay for the Club web site and Forum. Other expenses, such as printing the newsletter and providing supplies at Club activities, outside of regular meetings are anticipated to be covered by dues.

The Club Officers for 2009 were the following individuals:

President – Steve Sweet	Vice-President — Kevin Duesman	Secretary — Renae Woodard
Treasurer — Emma Arnold	Webmaster — MJ Oresik	Forum Master-Ken Price

The Club continues to maintain a website and a web forum at the following Internet sites:

Club Web Site: <http://idabees.org/> , Club Internet Forum: <http://idabees.org/yetanotherforum/>

The website provides meeting notifications, links to articles and information on beekeeping, a swarm catching list for the public's use, a calendar of current events and a general description of the Club leadership.

Prior to 2010, one Club member, Ken Price, fielded swarm calls from the public. Ken would then attempt to locate a beekeeper to handle the swarm, calling until he could locate a willing volunteer. A conservative estimate was that each year Ken could anticipate 400-500 calls. This has turned out to be too much for one individual to handle on a voluntary basis. In 2010, the public will be directed to the Volunteer Swarm Catchers web page and the Club will no longer be encouraging calls to a local Swarm Coordinator.

The internet forum has 51 registered members and hosted over 200 posts. Topics on the site range from Swarm Chasing, Raising Queens, Hive Management, Honey Harvesting, Selling and Buying Equipment and Events.

In 2009, the Club continued previous annual activities and made an effort to extend our community outreach program. Highlights of the year's activities for the Club included:

- On April 11, 2009, approximately 50 club members (double the group in 2008) were treated to a tour of Noyes Apiaries, in Fruitland, ID. Nick demonstrated hive manipulation and provided a tour of the facilities. By the end of the day, approximately 100 nucs were purchased by Club members.
- As mentioned earlier, the swarm catching efforts of 2008 were continued with approximately 400-500 calls handled and an undocumented number of swarms captured.
- During the summer, Emma Arnold and Matt White produced the inaugural issue of a Club newsletter. Syringa Bank made a generous contribution of commercial artwork and sponsored the newsletter.
- In June 2009, KTVB carried a 15 minute segment on Viewpoint that looked into beekeeping in the Treasure Valley.
- In late-June, Sarah Cox and Dick Knapp made a presentation to 13 interested gardeners at the Peaceful Belly, a local organic garden that supplies veggies to the Farmer's Market, in addition to the Co Op and some local restaurants. The folks there were doing a group garden/apprenticeship with Clay and Josey Erskine, the principals for Peaceful Belly. Sarah and Dick showed an observation hive after a general presentation/discussion, and then opened up one of their hives and pulled a frame or two for those brave enough to put on a veil and look (probably half).
- Boise Weekly ran an article in July that focused on Urban Farming – Chickens and Honeybees in an urban setting. Sarah and Dick's talk at Peaceful Belly was featured in the article.
- In August, the Club staffed a table in the Boise Botanical Gardens and put on a honeybee presentation for Bug Days. A generous, although anonymous Club donor, purchased the Club banner, 400 Honey-Stix and hundreds of hard honey candies. At one Stix&Candy to a child, the goodies were gone by 1 pm – hours before the event ended for the day.
- In September, George Prentice produced an eight minute segment on beekeeping in the Treasure Valley, interviewing Kevin Duesman and Steve Sweet. The segment aired on National Public Radio across the Pacific Northwest.
- Also, in September, Club members Sarah Cox, Dick Knapp, MJ Oresik, Mike Cooper, Kevin Duesman and Steve Sweet, in conjunction with promotional assistance by Elysia Ewing (Americorps), conducted a "Backyard Beekeeping" session in Downtown Boise. Attendance was counted at 44 that in turn converted into 20 new Club members.

Anticipated activities for 2010 include elections for Club Officers in February, a variety of field trips, continued swarm catching, and ongoing public education.

As the Club's designated Chief Drone, I would like to express the Club members' sincere appreciation to the Idaho Honey Industry Association for the excellent programs in 2007, 2008 and this year, and the Association's continual support of Club activities.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 //Steve Sweet  
 December 4, 2009