

July 2025 - Member Meeting
Meridian Senior Center
7/22/2025

Meeting started 6:31 pm

Brooklin welcomed members and reminded everyone to check in using the QR code and that they could potentially win 6 free raffle tickets to use at the next member meeting in September. Remember that there will be no meeting in August. He also recognized all of the members that make the meeting happen:

Rena Alexander - Treasurer

Robert Sperry - Vice President

Shanna Burbank - Secretary

Terry, Marc, Don, Darla, Joyce and Jeff were also recognized for setting up A/V, running Zoom, running the raffle and working the merchandise area.

Our participation tonight was 95 members seated and five of those were brand new to our meeting and we had 10 people join us via Zoom.

TVBC happenings in the last month: See Brooklin's Powerpoint for specifics

Outreach: KIN Night Market and FLC visit with KIN staff

Ringleaders Meeting: Thank You Anita and Luis Gonzales for opening up your home all year long for the Ringleaders to meet.

OSU Jeff spoke about the program and the levels of beekeeping in the program. Meredith Adams received her Apprentice level and she was recognized but not present.

Recognitions - Treasure Valley Beekeepers Ambassadors for 2024

Marc Von Huene

Steve Sweet

Garrett Hannah

August Education Event Opportunities

Ruth Crone shared about the upcoming Western Idaho Fair

Volunteers are still needed to cover the TVBC booth. This is our premier event for the club to teach the community about bees. Ruth requested set up on August 14 (day before the fair officially opens. If you can help her set up the booth before noon on that Thursday, let her know.

Here is Ruth's email address: rfrone@yahoo.com

Please remember that we are representing the TVBC so be mindful of that as you interact with fair participants during your volunteer shifts.

AND... If you are unable to fulfill the time you chose to volunteer...please find a replacement and provide that fair entry ticket to that person. We want to make sure that our booth has representation in order to educate anyone that comes along and wants to know more about honey bees.

We are selling honey sticks at the fair this year.

Ann our Volunteer Coordinantor shared about upcoming volunteer opportunities:

September we have several volunteer events they are really fun to be a part of. There were three sign up sheets at the back of the room to put your name on if your are able to join:

Bug Days <https://www.idahobotanicalgarden.org/event/bug-day/>
September 20, 2025

Flywheel fest <https://jumpboise.org/flywheelfest>
September 21, 2025

Colister Garden Tour. <https://www.collister.org/2020-garden-tour/>
September 21, 2025

National Honey Bee Day Celebration - Steve Sweet

“A Kick in the Butt!” August 8th will be the beginning of grand celebration with an hour long visit the Governor and our presentation of 40 jars of honey to him and his office.

On August 9th 1-4pm at the BSU Lookout Room in the Student Union and parking is free we will be visited by three big time beekeepers Jan Loman - national leader with ApisM and OSU; Dr. Dewey Caron - Grand PooBaa - don't loose your chance to see him.....he is nationally renound and Dr. Ramish Sagilli, Ramesh Sagili, Associate Professor-Apiculture at Oregon State University will speak about bee nutrition. There will be a bee hive inspection and later that night at Camp Duesmanville we will have a pot luck, bonfire and potato canon shootings. **BIG DAY**....Steve hopes to see you there....

Brooklin Gore - OA Pad Explanation of the process of making oxalic acid pads for extened use to put into your beehives. See Randy Oliver's explicit instructions on how to make these pads for your bees.

<https://scientificbeekeeping.com/instructions-for-extended-release-oxalic-acid/>

A safety tip: don't forget your PPE and use only stainless steel heating equipment.

The pads once made can be stored at room temperature for up to 6 months.

Marc Von Huene presented various methods for Varroa Mites Washes

See his presentation for specifics he has really informative charts to help understand the ins and outs of mite testing.

Some high points of his presentation were the following:

Not all alcohol is of equal strength...check the concentration 70%-90%. The higher concentrartion is the one we use for mite testing.

Dawn Ultra is the best liquid to use for mite testing since it is safer than using alcohol around the smoker. To not get too much foam since it is soap, don't swirl and shake it to hard. The lubrication in the soap will do the job of getting the mites to come off of the bees and into the testing cup.

And don't forget to LOOK FOR THE QUEEN before you test.

Sugar shake powdered sugar method kills bees and damages them ensuring that they have a slow death. The idea that the bees lick off the powdered sugar and hence also bite of some of the mites is not very accurate as to what really happens. This is not a humane method of doing a mite test. Do your research.

Mite Buster Participation Requirements:

Do three mite tests and you get a T-Shirt plus a potential to win some really nice prizes. Once you have done your three mite tests for your hive, enter in your mite counts into the club website page. <https://www.idabees.org/mite-busters.html>

Thank you Marc for this superior presentation and direction as to how to as Steve says, "Manage Your Mites!" We must remember that the more we help our bees with good nutrition and mite abatement....they will have a good chance of overwintering successfully. That is good for everyone...especially the bees.

Jim McMahon graciously introduced our first speaker of our speaker series: Charlie Vanden Heuvel

Our guest speaker tonight was a decorated Vietnam veteran, U.S. Navy senior chief, medical corpsman and a qualified submariner with duty on 2 US submarines during a 20 year military career. He became interested in beekeeping and in the past 15 years he's become a knowledgeable and gifted keeper. Charlie Vanden Huevel Is a graduate of the OSU master beekeeper program and certified as a Journeyman. He teaches, mentors, and travels across the state of Oregon visiting bee yards of hobbyists and of commercial beekeepers. As a writer Charlie also can be found in frequent articles he's authored in Bee Culture magazine. While he was here, Charlie participated in a teaching class on hive inspections at Jim McMahon's Apiary and a 2 hour Zoom meeting with Hives for Heroes members from Oregon and Idaho. Charlie worked with Ben Lafon and visiting members of the chapter at the Foothill learning center on Tuesday to talk about Varoa mites and hygiene in the hive.

At the monthly TVBC meeting Charlie spent approximately 45 minutes discussing how to combat varroa destructor mites as well as a short commentary on "tropi" mites building up in Asia. He stressed the importance of maintaining proper nutrition in your hive to generate healthy bees and especially those going into winter. He also stressed how important it is to do your very best using integrated pest management (IPM) to control the varroa, & proper feeding of your hives to assure 100% of your colonies make it through the winter coming out strong for spring. He took questions from the floor and answered them in a responsive and humorous fashion. His speech was well received and the chapter gifted him a Treasure Valley Bee Club cap and T-shirt as well as a metal replica of a bee including a removable varroa mite. A number of people remain after the meeting to congratulate Charlie and to Ask follow up questions from his presentation. All in all our guests seem to appreciate a three day very busy visit.

***Thank you Jim for this eloquent introduction for Charlie.

Charlie and Dewey are holding a Conference at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, Washington Sept 18-20, 2025

Gifts of appreciation (TVBC hat and t-shirt and the infamous metal bee with magnetic mite attached) was given to Charlie for his three day visit with club members at Jim's apiary, the FLC and our member meeting.

Brooklin told members at the table to take the mite test kit on the tables if you don't have one.

Ben reminded that this Saturday at 10 am at FLC there will be honey harvesting and inspections. taking the supers off

8:42pm meeting ended

Raffle began at this time.

