

March TVBC Meeting
March 25, 2025
Meridian Senior Center

6:30pm - Started

Attendance - 117 - 10 new beekeepers in attendance.

Theme of the meeting: What a glorious time to be a beekeeper?

President Brooklin Gore welcomed the membership and then introduced the TVBC officers:
Robert Sperry - Vice President; Rena Alexander - Treasurer; Shanna Burbank - Secretary

Announcements

Brooklin prompted members to use the QR code to track their attendance and to be randomly selected to receive 6 tickets for using the QR code. Last month's winners were Brandon and Ana Larosa - not in attendance at this meeting. You must be present to be able to receive the free raffle tickets. Sorry Brandon and Ana.

The OSU winter class has one date left, April 12, 2025. This is a great opportunity for further education in the keeping of bees. See Jeff Bergland if you are interested in joining the OSU program.

Work Party at FLC with Ben and many volunteers that helped rebuild the entire enclosure. A hive inspection was done on Sunday and all of the hives overwintered successfully. Thank you Ben for your great beekeeping skills.
For more pics of the Work Party Weekend check out the TVBC Facebook page.

Boise Community classes are complete and 60 members of the local Boise community were educated on beekeeping and invited to join TBVC.

Build it Day #2 was held at Kevin and Finn's house. Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped make that another successful event for our club.

Don't forget to pay your club dues, it will be the best 25 bucks you will ever spend.

Hive Survey

65% of commercial hives have died this year but it seems that hobbyist beekeepers have not suffered such losses. Please take the Hive Survey so that we can get an accurate count as to our successes and losses here in our club.

Call for raffle items Jeff is going on a long vacation, so gratefully, Don and Darla will be taking over the raffle for the next two meetings....Brooklin did a shout out for donations for raffle items for the next couple of meetings.

Presentations

Alora Gonzales - Alora, being a part of the 4H program for the last twelve years, presented to the club her new found knowledge on bees. She is in a program within the 4H club called "Keeping It Country." She and her family have had bees for the past three years and have not be able to successfully overwinter them and because of that ongoing experience she was prompted to do some of her own research on bees and shared that learning with us. Her content was informative and she stressed that bee mortality rises when we use pesticides and we should strive to not eliminate dandelions from our grass. She took some questions from the members and ended her presentation with a hopeful outlook on her upcoming bee season.

Apitherapy Natalia Miller

Natalia Miller, a good friend of Kevin Duesman and Kathryn Duesman, graciously shared with us her experience with apitherapy to treat the symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis, which is an autoimmune condition. She was diagnosed with the disease when she went blind in her one of her eyes after a head injury. She share that she has been stung up to 20 times in a day. She claims that apitherapy teaches her immune system how to realign itself and “behave” in the face of disease. She was introduced to this type of therapy by Joe Bee who was diagnosed with Stage 4 liver cancer and his doctor told him to go home and put his affairs in order and that there was nothing else they could for him. Natalia stated that Joe Bee lived longer than the doctors prognosticated due to his use of apitherapy. Natalia has had a maximum of 300 stings in one year. She connected with Kathryn on the internet and Kevin, Kathryn and Natalia have become fast friends since. Natalia referenced a book from The Bee Lady. <https://apitherapy.blogspot.com/2008/02/bee-lady-uses-stings-to-treat-ms.html>

Natalia’s method of apitherapy: She captures the bees in a net, twists the net toward light and her husband picks up the bees with a tweezer within the net and places them on various parts of her body. She leaves the stinger in till the venom is fully in her system. She then takes the bee and eats it as a way to honor the bee for giving up its life for her. Kevin attempted to demonstrate the bee sting apitherapy experience. He, Natalia and the bee were successful on the second attempt.

Questions from the members resulted in the following answers: Natalia does have a swelling reaction to the stings. She leaves the stinger in for a minimum of 30 minutes per sting. She says that the bees taste good especially when they have pollen in their pollen baskets. Kevin Duesman supplies bees to her. She also sees a Tibetan doctor as well as a Western physician. Natalia has noticed a difference in her pain levels since doing apitherapy. In the winter she does feel a little worse when the bees are not so prevalent.

Sara Correll - Caring for Parks

Sara, a representative from the City of Boise shared with us a few programs that the City of Boise has to offer. One of them is Bee Watch - volunteers receive a talk from three informed professionals on pollinators and then go out and count bees for 3 minutes on native plants in city gardens. Check out the links provided to get more info on these programs and more that the City of Boise has to offer regarding pollinators. Or, call Sara directly at 1-208-608-7609. She and her work partner Aylissa can direct you and your family further on the topic of native bees and their habitats. You can also become part of the pollinator posse working in pollinator gardens to create as much food as possible for the bees by hand weeding and hand pruning to create stronger native bee habitats during the months of April to early November. They focus on Xeriscaped plants. She stated that these types of gardens require little to no water since these plants have incredible tap roots. Also we were invited to come along and join in the City Nature Challenge.

Brooklin informed the members of the free coffee sacs for those that want to use them in your smoker.

Brooklin presented on **Bee Friendly lawns!** Stop mowing so much and know that bees love dandelions. He is in the works with Zamzows to stock and sell a more bee friendly seed mix including fescues, self-heal and clover. Make a meadow in your yard. It is healthy for grass to not

be mowed so often. Turf lawn is really a desert for bees. And if you really must spray your yard... please do it at night...when the bees are in their hives.

Breakout sessions. 7:24pm - 7:58 ended

Packages and Nucs - Kevin and Jim

Demaree split method - Jeff

Swarm Capturing - Marc

Ended the meeting - 8:01pm

Raffle started at 8:02pm

Final Announcements.

Packages and Nucs will be ready:

Steve and Kevin (nucs) April 12th & 13th

Mike Morrison (packages) April 5th & 6th ***This info comes from Jeff as of March 28, 2025.

We still need people to sign up for our upcoming events.

Members provided feedback that they would like more communication via email from our club.