

Treasure Valley Beekeepers Meeting

May 27, 2025

Meridian Senior Center

Meeting Started: 6:32 pm

Attendance:

100 people

10 new people

Acknowledgements and Thank You's

Thank you Richard Bowring for creating the new "Let's Connect" card! With one link (QR code) you can join the club/pay your dues, sign in to win and make your presence known at the monthly meeting, you can ask questions/requests, and get help. Thanks again Richard for your tech skills.

Don't forget to reach out to Brooklin for any concerns and questions you may have.

Club officers and other super helpful members and volunteers that help our meetings and events run smoothly were acknowledged at the meeting. Because we have such dedicated volunteers and club members we were able to teach, enrich and engage with lots of Treasure Valley community members about bees at the April/May at FLC 20th anniversary, school and garden events this past month.

Beckie Sherr won the 6 raffle tickets for signing in on the QR code last month...Congratulations Beckie!!!! And thank you for using our QR code to sign in.

Ann Cochran - New Volunteer Coordinator

The Beltane Fantasy Festival was a "no go" during Mother's Day weekend for various reasons. Thank you all who faithfully signed up to volunteer, maybe next year we can bring our club's knowledge about bees to the event.....BUT.....on the super bright and positive side of this....Ann Cochran has stepped up to become our new volunteer coordinator. Thank you Ann for graciously volunteering to be our club's first ever volunteer program coordinator. Ann expressed that she is excited to take on this needed role in our club. Ann is in the process of creating a volunteer guide and training manual for future volunteer events. In these manuals and training guides there will be information and guidelines for volunteer expectations and engagement at events so that no one will be ill-prepared for any event that they decide to volunteer at. Ann envisions that after an event has concluded, a survey will be sent out to volunteers to gather their feedback as to how the experience went and what we could do differently at the next event. Good luck in your new role Ann.....You are going to bring structure and consistency to our club outreach events.

Ruth Crone - New Idaho State Fair Organizer

Ruth Crone has excitedly stepped up into big shoes and has agreed to be our new Idaho State Fair coordinator. Ruth is filled with super ideas and tons of energy. She will be excellent at this role. Ruth, at the meeting, publicly thanked the past Idaho State Fair Coordinator/Leadership as well as eagerly invited new beekeepers to volunteer at the fair. She encouraged all of us that by volunteering at the fair we learn to become better beekeepers and can advocate for all the bees in the community. We have the opportunity to get in front of people and tell them all that we know about bees. When you sign up to volunteer please tell us at what level of beekeeping you are currently at so that we can pair up with a more or less experienced beekeeper. Don't forget that you will receive a free ticket to get into the fair the day that you choose to volunteer. Go early or stay late...but have fun. There will be an observation hive on hand and lots of kids to give "You found the queen" stickers to. The dates are August 15th to the 24th.

Announcements and Presentations and Upcoming Events

Victory Greens with Garrett on June 21, 2025

Treasure Valley Bee Club Library

Thank you to Kathryn and Kevin for two years of lugging fascinating bee resources. Kathryn has brought to our attention that if you have borrowed from the TVBC library, please bring your book back...our resources and books are getting low. She is not into shame so don't worry about being reprimanded....just bring it back and she will smile and say "thank you!"

Mayan Stingless Bees - Brooklin presented an extra special video/presentation about Mayan Stingless Bees that he discovered while he was on vacation in Cozumel, Mexico...see link for the presentation...Cozumel has three kinds of stingless bees. Only one of the three bees give honey and have their hive in hollow tree trunks. The Melipona bee lives in a structure called a "Jabon" and is the size of a human's little finger. This bee provides a harvest of honey of only one liter to two liters per year and is extracted by using a syringe. Brooklin stated that this is a very floral tasting honey. And that the bees are enjoying floral blooms all year round.

Brooklin also brought back three four ounce bottles of this precious honey which is \$40 per four ounce bottle. These bottles of honey were raffled off in the silent auction. Thank you Brooklin for providing this special honey for our raffle.

Also mentioned in the presentation was that mites are not the problem for these Mayan bees but rather ants and flies are the prevalent pests for these bees. Again, see the link to fully enjoy Brooklin's presentation.

Breakout Sessions

How to keep your smoker lit with Dave Pook

New beekeepers questions about your nuc and/or package with Garrett Hanna and Shanna Burbank

Honey production with Vic and Laura Otto

Final Reminders with Brooklin

- FLC event this Saturday 5/31/2025 at 10 am - general hive inspection with Benoit Lafon.
- Managing your mites now!!!! Don't be misled or get behind on your mite counts. In June we will do a mite check demonstration but Ben will do one this Saturday at the FLC...
- Rena Alexander will do a presentation on how to prepare your honey for the fair in June.
- Jan Kee invited several folks out to her apiary to show an alternative way of managing mites. She has had four years of success with her method. Reach out to her if you are interested. This is a "no-kill" Oxalic vaporiser method with screened bottom boards and cooking spray that she employs.
- If you would like to invite some of us out to see your apiaries, do so! It is fun to visit others' apiaries and learn from others in the club.

Raffle began at 7:45pm and meeting ended at 7:44pm.