

TVBC 2024-03 Member's Meeting

136 members in attendance. All officers present, except Brooklin. 10 kids in Jr. Bee Club. 12 new members. 9 on Zoom.

Wow, what a swarm of a meeting we had! And that was the main topic of our meeting.

But, before we get to that, we had some important announcements.

First on the agenda - Laura shared about our partnership with Oregon Master Beekeeper's Apprenticeship program taught by Jeff Bergland. She acknowledged all those who are currently certified and then introduced 2 new people that just received their certification. A name badge was presented to Sylvia Nixon. She just finished her apprenticeship and Dick Knapp has been her mentor. A name badge was also presented to Kari Childs who just completed the program and is certified and Just Bill has been her mentor. Congratulations to both!!

Upcoming events:

April 6th is the day for the Honey Store event. If you ordered packages from them that is the day to pick them up. It is from 8 am to noon. Bob Sperry also said that if you need a package and have not ordered one, the Honey Store still has some available. Call them to order one.

A big thank you from Just Bill for all who picked up items that were donated. The donation program has been a great success.

Do you want healthier hives? Learn how to test for mites! And, the incentive? Well, Just Bill shared two opportunities to learn how to test and treat for mites. The first one will be on April 13th at 1:30 at Jim McMahon's. The second one on May 18th at Kevin Deusman's with time to be determined. The incentive? The first 15 people that sign up and attend the class will get a free test kit, complements of the club. Now, who wouldn't want to take part in that!

Outreach programs:

We have some exciting events coming up that need volunteers. Laura pointed out that if you are getting your apprenticeship then this is a great opportunity to help towards your certification. Sound intimidating? You don't know enough about beekeeping yet? Not to worry. You will be paired with another experienced beekeeper. It really is the best way to learn. In no time you will be talking about and teaching others about bees and beekeeping.

1. April 27th, 10 AM Beekeeping 101 class taught at Edwards Greenhouse
2. May 3rd, 7 - 9 pm TVBC informational table at Zamzows annual ladies' night at the State Street location

3. June 2nd, 9am - 4pm (2 shifts) TVBC informational table at the 1st Annual Collister Neighborhood Assoc Garden Tour

If you are interested please see Garrett or Bob Sperry who are spearheading all of this. There will be sign up sheets available at the next meeting in April. Garrett also shared that KIVI will be doing a report on swarms and also having flyers put in different locations talking about swarms and who to contact. Great job, Garrett and Bob!!

Foothills Learning Center - Mark Nagel is no longer able to head that up. Looking for a few people to help. One to oversee and others to help manage. You will need a background check, which is free of charge. There will be a few children's programs through the season and also checking and maintaining the hives that are located there. If interested, please see Benoit.

Update on packages and Nucs and their arrival dates. Mike Morrison said that he will have packages by April 15th to pick up. Kevin and Steve will have Nucs around the first or second week in April. They will keep us informed.

Enough announcements - now let's get down to business.

What do I do now? Laura shared that we need to make sure our hives are healthy by feeding right now with sugar water. Ratio is 1:1. Also feed with pollen patties. And of course, treat for mites.

Aw...now the big questions - how do I prevent my hive from swarming? How do I catch a swarm? Who do I call? Is there really proper etiquette?

Our presenters, Jeff Bergland, Benoit Lafon and Marc Von Huene did a fantastic job.

Some highlights:

One of the main reasons that affect swarming? Congestion. Jeff and Benoit demonstrated how to do a DeMaree Split on a hive. The reason for the split? To trick the hive into thinking that it swarmed. Wonderful demonstration and great questions. Thanks Jeff and Benoit.

So, I just received a call to go catch a swarm. How exactly do I do that and what tools do I need? Benoit gave a great demonstration on how to catch a swarm using an extension pole with bucket attached to the end. Great job Benoit!

Am I on the swarm list? And what is the proper etiquette and why is that so important? Well, Marc Von Huene gave a great presentation. Yes the swarm list is being updated. See him if you still want to be on the list and remember you must be a paid member. Some of the highlights from his presentation were:

1. If you are on the swarm list, you are on the hook
2. Do not ignore calls
3. Answer every call with a callback or text
4. If unable to attend to the swarm, phone a backup

5. Calm caller down
6. Get required info - how high up? How big? Attached to what? Can I cut limbs to get to swarm? How long has it been there? Do you own the property?
7. Make sure you have proper equipment
8. Determine if you are capable to take care of swarm
9. Leave no bees behind!
10. And, a little humor thrown in, what if the caller has a political flag flying in their yard?
Well, just get the bees and run! It's all about the Queen!

Laura ended with sharing that Washington State University is doing a project on new protocol for mite testing. They are looking for people to participate. You must have 4 hives and do testing every 2 weeks and send results to them. If you are interested and would like to participate please talk to Steve Sweet.

Ended with Raffle. Another fantastic meeting! Thanks everyone. See you next time!

On behalf of Brooklin and because he left me in charge!

Cheers - Ann Cochrane

