

TVBC 2024-04 Member's Meeting

About 100 members in attendance. All officers present, except Brooklin. 10 kids in Jr. Bee Club. 5 new members. 6 on Zoom.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Laura asked anyone that brought in their own drink, including water bottles or food to please immediately take it out to their cars. We were asked by the Eagle's Lodge to adhere to their requirement or risk losing our privilege to the use of their facility. Please be mindful and respectful of this.

Laura announced that the meeting tonight would include "Stump the Chump" If anyone had questions for the "Chumps", please write them down and turn them in.

Welcome everyone! There were at least 5 new people in attendance. At least 2 of the new attendees came as a result of attending one of the community education classes.

First things first - Announcements:

Coming up this Saturday, April 27th - Beekeeping 101 at Edwards Greenhouse. Starting at 10 am. We are still in need of a couple more volunteers. Please see Garrett if you are interested.

On Friday, May 3rd - Zamzow's Ladies Night Garden Party in the Greenhouse from 7-9 pm. This will be held at their location on Chinden. We do have enough volunteers for this event, but ladies, you can still come out and enjoy the evening. (There may even be some wine involved!) Again, please talk to Garrett if you need details.

Saturday, May 18th - The second mite check demo will be at Kevin Deusman's place. Just Bill shared about the success of the first one that took place at Jim McMahon's place on April 13th. 22 people participated and all took home their very own mite test kit, compliments of the club. If you plan to attend the second one you will: 1. Be shown how to check for mites. 2. Be shown two different ways of treating for mites, either oxalic dribble or oxalic vapor. The recipe will be available. 3 .Be able to pass around and handle frames showing brood and larvae. 4. Take home your very own mite test kit! This is a great, hands on learning opportunity that you don't want to miss. Please bring your bee suit if you are going to attend.

Tuesday, May 21st - Ringleader's Meeting. What is a ringleader? What does a ringleader do exactly? Aw..so glad you asked! The Ringleaders meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month to plan the TVBC Member's meeting held on the following Tuesday. Our # 1 goal? To help you all become the most successful beekeepers you can be. As Laura said, "Beekeeping is an art". So, we brainstorm and then plan what we can share at the next meeting that will accomplish this. We try to come up with new ideas and ways to teach and educate whether you are a new beekeeper or have been at it for years. And, as Laura also said, "I have learned more by going to the ringleaders meeting than anywhere else." Would you like your voice to be heard? Do

you have fresh ideas to share? Come join us at 6 pm at the Co-Op on Eagle Road. We would love to have you!

Saturday, August 17th - A Big Celebration is happening! Put on the party hats because it is "National Honey Bee Day." Yep, that's right. There is actually a day set aside to celebrate our honey bees! But, wait, we are throwing in another celebration. What?? Two in one day? Yep. This is our 10th year in participating with OSU in their Apprenticeship Program. This will be a fun packed day full of activities including some special people from OSU that will be joining us. Need I say more? Just put it on your calendars for now. More to come...

Phew, that was a lot of exciting announcements!

But, the meeting has just begun. So, let's keep going!

Garrett went on an exciting vacation to Slovenia! And we got to share in this adventure by watching a video he put together. The highlight of his trip was a visit to a local apiary. A little background that was interesting:

There are approx. 200,000 bee colonies in Slovenia. There are roughly around 2.1 million people that live there.

1 - 200 of them are beekeepers

The bees are mostly carniolans, are very docile, great honey producers and swarm prone. Most of them keep their bees in AZ hives working the hives from the inside out. They are custom painted in folk tales.

We met Blaz, a local beekeeper that has 150 - 200 hives.

He actually has an aroma therapy place set up where people can come and sleep and benefit from the smell of the hives!

"You are not going to be young forever. Plan ahead." With that in mind, all of his queens are marked, all hives have queen excluders, no lifting of heavy boxes. And most importantly, he treats for mites.

Oh, and did I mention that they make honey brandy? Well, it is such a big thing over there that every store has a dedicated honey section and every menu explains the different honey flavors. Did Garrett try some of this honey brandy? Why, yes, he did. Did he bring any home with him? Well, he came up with several excuses as to why he didn't, but what really happened was that he just drank it all while he was there!

What a great time. Thank you Garrett for sharing with us!

The Newbees corner was introduced. Garrett interviewed one of our new beekeepers, Julie Simmons with 5 simple questions:

1. What interested you in beekeeping - Interested for awhile, mainly in honey
2. How did you hear about the club? pamphlet
3. What is your favorite thing about the club? Always someone to answer and help
4. Most important topic to you? Find unmarked queen and splitting hive in simple way
5. What would you recommend to all new beekeepers? Jump in and get started!

Looking forward to more newbees sharing how they got started!

Time for "Stump the Chump" narrated by Jim McMahon

Some takeaways:

Is it too early to add honey supers? Well, Steve Sweet (one of the chumps) gave us scientific proof that you get a lot more honey when you put supers on your hive than when you leave them in the garage. In all seriousness, now is the time. Put those supers on!

Other questions involved requeening, hive configuration, when to harvest honey, mite treatment and moth infestation. And the final question: Are we required to register our hives with the state of Idaho? Although a hobbyist is not, Rena pointed out that there is a city code in keeping bees. Good to know! All great questions and wonderfully answered by the chumps, Steve, Dave, Berta and Laura. Great job everyone!

Laura talked for a few minutes about the Foothills Learning Center and its significance to the club. This has been one of the primary support areas for the club. We have kept hives there for several years now, maintained and overseen by Mark Nagel. It has always been a great teaching tool and opportunity to learn. Mark is no longer able to be in that role and so Ben has stepped into that position. There will continue to be an opportunity to help with mite treatments, clean up and going through hives and Ben will send out emails so people can participate. Over the last winter none of the hives survived. But, due to the great generosity of Dick Knapp and a donated swarm, we now have 5 thriving hives. Dick Knapp was presented with a thank you card and our great appreciation for his donation and wonderful contribution over the years to this club. "My great pleasure," Dick said. "This is one of the coolest things we do as education along with OSU."

The Raffle took place right after the break. As always, some great items were raffled off.

We ended our night with 2 breakout sessions:

1. Information on swarm collection - by Jacob
2. Cut outs when collecting a swarm - Ben and Dave

As promised, some great videos on recent swarm collections

Wow, another fun-packed and busy meeting. See y'all next time!!

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

Cheers - Ann Cochrane