

# TVBC 2024-05 Member's Meeting

About 90 members in attendance. All officers present. 8 kids in Jr. Bee Club. 9 new members. 10 on Zoom.

**Announcements**, call for new members. We had about 9 new members, heard of club from Just Bill and the Edwards session we did.

It's been a **busy swarm year**. Well over 20 swarms have been caught by club members and distributed to those in need of bees. What a great way to ensure swarming colonies find a great home. We also heard that Mountain Home caught 20 swarms.

## **Upcoming events:**

- Sunday, June 2 - Collister Garden Tour, sign-up to help in the back (two shifts). Volunteers get a free ticket for the tour (\$20 value). Ten gardens, music, food, entertainment.
- June 15, 1:30 FLC hands on workshop
- June 15, 10-4 MK Nature Center Pollinator Celebration
- June 18, Edwards Greenhouse event.

**Hive hardware exchange.** Bill gave out a kids bee suit to a member at the meeting. He will accept and distributed various hardware as it is available. It's a great way to get started for free!

**Idaho State Fair.** August 16-25. Need 120 volunteers for four slots a day from 11am to 9pm. We have 3 people per shift. It's so much fun to talk bees with fair goers. Get a free ticket to the fair. 250,000 people come through the fair each year. We sell honey sticks which are really popular. We have observation hives so folks can see bees in action..

**Things to be thinking about now.** Honey production. Get those supers on if you haven't already. Do your bees have a good source of water? It will be getting hot and dry soon, so be sure they have several good water sources (and not your neighbors swimming pool!). Be sure you have platforms like rocks, wood, rope etc that bees can stand on to drink. Swarm season is winding down but your hives can still swarm, so be sure they have plenty of room. Beware of pesticide application in your area – especially if you live in an agricultural area.

**Foothills Learning Center (FLC)** update. We have a wonderful resource and 5 hives that we use for education. Yay Ben, Shanna and Garret. Summer day camp coming up on Thursday led by Shanna. You can also learn how to test and treat for mites. Our next hands-on workshop will be on June 15, at 1:30.

We conducted two **hands-on workshops** on mite management in the past two months and educated around 40 people and provided them with mite test kits. We got really good questions at these workshops and want to continue providing hands-on opportunities, such as:

1. How to find your queen, and/or know you have a productive queen.
2. How to test for mites.
3. How to produce and harvest honey.

**New Bee Corner.** Thank you Nancy and Robb Tiffany for sharing their experiences with other new bees. Over half of those in attendance indicated they had been keepings bees for two years or less or have not yet started keeping bees. Nancy and Robb really appreciated the support they've received from our club. They would like to know more about queens and queen cells (winter emergence), honey production and preparing for Autumn.

Brooklin presented fun fast facts and gave away four raffle tickets for correct answers.

Laura did a **plug for the Ringleaders** group. Next meeting is at the Gonzales' (address?)

Laura promoted the **OSU Master Beekeeping** program. You can attend online or in person at the classes we conduct January - April each year. Learn more [here](#).

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Marc on **Extracting Honey**. Hive configurations for honey production. Capped frames. Uncapping tools - cold, hot. Extractors - tangential, radial. Filtering. Bottling. Can test honey content using a refractometer which can be purchased online. Labeling. Raw (not heated over 112'), Organic (no artificial treatments), Local (from here)

The club has a couple of extractors that mentors can rent for use.

<raffle>