

TVBC 2024-07 Member's Meeting

Our July meeting started with a warm welcome from Laura. Speaking of warmth, despite the oppressive heat and smoke there were approximately 102 members in attendance. All officers were present except Brooklin and 3 were on Zoom. J. Bee Club did not have their regular meeting.

Announcements:

Laura asked if people are interested in small group sessions apart from our regular club meeting that would provide hands-on teaching on different topics. Vic and Laura hosted a small group at their home with 2 new beekeepers teaching them how to extract honey. According to Laura, it was great fun and quite successful. If you are interested, please provide name, phone # and topic of interest on sign-up sheets that Laura is circulating.

There will not be a regular club meeting in August due to our participation in National Honeybee Day, Aug. 16th - 17th and the Western Idaho Fair, Aug. 16th - 25th. The next meeting will be held on Sept. 24th at 6:30 pm. The next ringleader meeting will be held on Sept. 17th, 6:00 pm, at the home of Luis and Anita Gonzales, 2499 E Franklin Rd in Meridian. Any member is welcome to come and participate.

There will be a hive inspection at the FLC on Aug 11th from 10 am - 12 pm demonstrated by Garrett and Shawna.

Bug Days at the Idaho Botanical Gardens will be held on Sept. 21st from 9 am - 3 pm.

Meeting notes...

1. Donations - Just Bill talked about our donation program. There were several items in need of a good home. A smoker was donated to the FLC. The rest of the items, including enough Apiguard mite treatments for 12 hives were handed out to members that could use them. Great job Just Bill!
2. Western Idaho Fair - Just Bill shared that he still had several spots open to work at the Fair. He also needed 1 more observation hive. There are approximately 250,000 people that come to the Fair over 10 days. This gives our club a huge opportunity to teach and educate the community about honey bees and beekeeping. Oh, and by the way, you don't have to know all the answers! So, let's get those slots filled. You won't be sorry, and I bet you will have a lot of fun! See Just Bill to volunteer.
3. National Honey Bee Day - Steve Sweet is putting together a great agenda that includes the Governor's proclamation, a possible Pub Swarm (look like a honey bee, act like a honey bee!) and in celebration of our 10-year partnership with the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, we will be joined by Jan Lowman, Carolyn Reese, Ellen, and Dewey Caron who are all an integral part of the OMB. They will talk about how the

program began, what they have done, where they are at, how the program can be improved and where they are going with it. We will conclude with our annual potluck and potato cannon shoot at Kevin and Kathryn's home, and of course campfire tales. Steve will send out an email with all the particulars, dates, times and location of each event. So, stay tuned! You really don't want to miss this.

4. Bug Days - Ann gave a brief update about Bug Days. This event is a ton of fun. With 3 observation hives, handing out honey sticks, demonstrating bee suits and hive tools, and answering a myriad of questions, it keeps us buzzing! They expect over 2,000 kids to come this year. Oh, and guess what? When it comes to helping at this event, age doesn't matter. Ethan, who is Vic and Laura's grandson, is excited to volunteer and talk to kids about beekeeping! To volunteer, please talk to Ann.
5. Pulling Supers - What is the most fun and takes the most time? Extracting honey! Marc shared his 5-year journey to learn the best method to pull supers for honey extraction. First year - smokes bees like crazy, runs like crazy, gets some honey, but alas, it tastes like smoke. Second - tries box cover, hm...Third - Uses escape board - takes 2 days for them to escape and on 3rd day they know how to get back in. Fourth - Blower method...where did all the bees go? Fifth - finally, EUREKA!! Fume board. Use Bee-quick spray on the underside of the box, 90% leave, brush the rest off. Marc also shared how to clean the wax from the queen excluder. A few ideas - put in a solar wax melter, scrape with hive tool, wire brush, heat gun or pressure wash. Finally, now is the time to measure your mites. JOIN MITE BUSTERS! Measure mites 3 times during the season, document your findings on mite buster's form and give it to Marc. You will then get your very own mite buster's shirt and BONUS - your name will be put in a drawing for some cool prizes. Your bees win and you win! Now who wouldn't want that!
6. Blue Ribbon Honey - Rena and Karla gave a great presentation on how to get your honey ready for the Fair. A few of their secrets? Filter, filter, filter. Don't use cheesecloth which leaves lint. Put samples out in the sun or on top of the fridge so air bubbles will rise to the top, then scrape off. They also shared what type of jars can be used for your honey. Novice - two years or less in beekeeping, may use pint jars. Experienced - over two years and up - only use 1 lb. glass queen lined jars. How is it judged? Every sample is tested for moisture content, the absence of crystals, lint, dirt, bee body parts, and wax, the overall cleanliness of the jar, (no sticky jars) and taste. Question: Can I enter something besides honey? Yes! Examples: Wax candles, frame of honey, infused honey, pictures of your honeybees, etc. In fact, the judges are very liberal about anything from the hive. So, be creative! Go to the Western Idaho Fair Website and enter today. Who knows, you might just end up with a blue ribbon!

Raffle - JB, in Jeff's absence, ended the meeting with a successful raffle.

The meeting ended on time and any that wanted to stay afterwards to talk to an experienced beekeeper were welcome to do so.

Cheers everyone and see you in September! Ann, on behalf of Brooklin