

TVBC 2024-09 Member's Meeting

Everyone was amazed with our new hive! We had well over 70 folks in attendance initially and even more by the time we concluded as people found their way in., We had over 10 new members and 15 kids in Jr. Bee Club (filling their new private room)! The Jr Bees were treated to a nature walk around Kleiner park by JBC leader Jaelyn Westrick and some parent helpers. The new folks had heard about the TVBC from word of mouth, online, and the Idaho State Fair. We didn't offer Zoom this month as we got a feel for our new space.

President Laura Otto kicked off the meeting by asking who was new and making some announcements about our upcoming programs.

Jeff Berglund talked about the Oregon State University (OSU) Apprentice Beekeeping program. He acknowledged the Apprentices and Journeymen beekeepers in the room and talked about the online and in-class offerings and the costs (\$75 online, \$200 in-class – from note takers poor memory, check [online](#) for exact amounts).

Laura talked about our booth at the Fair staffed by over 50 volunteers. Jim McMahon shared that we had staffed over 290 slots, and members submitted 28 entries in the honey section with over 1140 total entries in the agricultural categories. He thanked members Karla, Melinda and Joyce for being honey judges and especially those who were so kind to donate their honey (Kelsey Swope, Vic Otto, "Just" Bill, Mara McMahon, Ann Cochrane, Darla Larson, Irene and Jacob Westrick, and Bryan Brimmer) which went to the Fair workers and staff. He also acknowledged the key work done by "Just" Bill as the coordinator AND as Assistant Superintendent for the Agriculture Department, wishing him well on his personal elk hunt this month.

Last weekend we represented our club at the Idaho Botanical Garden's annual Bug Days (thank you Ann Cochran for organizing). We also attended the Flywheel Fest at JUMP.

Last weekend the club worked a very popular booth at the Idaho Botanical Garden's annual Bug Days (thank you Ann Cochrane for organizing). Steve Sweet and others also attended the Flywheel Fest at JUMP.

Laura then talked about what we should be doing in our apiaries now. Managing mites is the #1 activity we should focus on because without good mite management, nothing else matters. Make sure there is ample honey in your hives. If not, consider feeding syrup. Consider entrance reducers if you notice an issue with robbing. She mentioned "[Honey Bee Suite](#)" as a resource. Also ensure that hardware NOT in a hive is properly stored and any frames with wax or honey are stored safely from wax moths and ants.

Steve Sweet spoke to the club about mite management, specifically a report on our club's Citizen Scientist work with Washington State University, testing VeroxSan, a new and now

commercially available (e.g. Mann Lake) mite treatment. It is a slow release oxalic acid treatment applied to the hive as a strip, four per two-deep hive. Cost is about \$12/hive. This treatment is safe to use during honey production! It is well tolerated by the bees, with no impact on brood or the queen. Steve had mixed results in his testing. We expect more formal test results reported from Washington State University in December. The OSU folks who visited us a few weeks ago, really talked up Formic Pro as a mite treatment. However, experience shows that formic acid can be hard on queens.

A “stump the chump” session (questions for experts Ben, Kevin and Irene), included:

- How do you know there is a dearth (no food for the bees)? More aggressive bees. No pollen coming in. Light hive (ideally can use a luggage scale to weigh). Dearth is very location dependent (e.g. country vs. city).
- How much should a hive weight? 100 pounds is a good rule of thumb for a double deep 10 frame hive setup.
- How do I get my bees through the winter? No mites, plenty of food (honey and pollen), no moisture.
- Are there zoning/restrictions on where you can have bees? In Boise you can have two hives (and one nuc) per quarter acre. You may have additional HOA restrictions. Give your neighbors lots of honey :)
- Do hives need to be insulated over winter in the Treasure Valley? Not really, but a lot of folks put a foam board and a rock on top, some people wrap. It is a good idea to provide some type of wind barrier if the hive is very exposed. A lot depends on your specific location and weather.
- Do you need to keep your dog away from your bees? Not generally as dogs are quick learners! But ‘mean’ bees aren’t good for anyone and are an indication to re-queen the hive.

Our raffle this week included a complete set of Garth Brooks CDs , two custom glass bees made in Murano Italy, TVBC custom made wine glasses , and various bee and hive tools and other fun items.

There will be a hands-on session at the hives at the Foothills Learning Center (on 8th street just past Camel’s Back park) at 10am this Saturday, September 28.