

TVBC 2024-10 Member's Meeting

We had about 60 people in attendance of which at least 5 were newbees. We had 4 young ones in Jr. Bee Club. We tried something new this meeting – recording the Zoom meeting to publish on our website. This was the second meeting in our new location and we are getting the A/V system figured out and settled in.

Thanks to Vice President Ann Cochran, Treasurer Rena Alexander and others who brought cookies, water and balloons to make our new home welcoming and festive.

President Laura Otto kicked off the meeting with a reminder that we have a great library brought each month by Kevin Duesman and Kathryn Montgomery from which you can check out books or magazines for free.

President Laura then acknowledged our newest graduates from the OSU Master Beekeeping Apprentice Program. JB Alexander and Kathryn Montgomery. Laura plugged the program. Jim McMahon mentioned that we'd have two microscopes for class this coming year for dissections and other up close investigation.

Secretary Brooklin Gore talked about the officer positions that will be available in 2025 and our selection process. If you are interested, please contact President Otto (ljotto49@yahoo.com). She also talked about the Ringleaders group and how they support our club.

Just Bill talked about his tenure as our Hive Hardware Exchange coordinator for the past three years. He has tirelessly helped people get rid of their beekeeping hardware and find good homes for it. Thank you Bill!!!! Bill did a free raffle for a smoker, a honey extractor and honey sieves.

Melinda Jean Stafford (Ex club president and 11 year beekeeper with 4 and 5 year olds) is the social media coordinator for D&B in addition to her professional career. She did a presentation on **Beekeeping with Kids**. The key take-aways:

- Keep it fun and manage fear.
- Keep your productivity and expectations low and your sessions short (e.g. 5-10 minutes)
- Consider the developmental age (e.g. a 10 year old can do a lot more than a 4 year old)
- Work in ideal conditions (e.g. not too hot, etc.)
- Have the right protective gear
- Teach them to be gentle
- Engage them by letting them hold things, like frames or hive tools
- Have a sting plan - get that stinger out, remain calm
- Some fun ideas:
 - Gather fuel for the smoker
 - Hold the inner cover or a frame with bees

- Pick out drones and put them in a jar
- Help find the queen (especially good for older kids)
- Help with honey harvesting

During questions after Melinda's fun presentation (with her kids to help demo kid-friendly protective wear) we had a reminder about Epipens – check to see if yours is expired. You can get a prescription for a pen from your doctor – being a beekeeper is a valid justification. They can be a bit expensive (\$100ish) depending on your insurance. Melinda mentioned that you can find discount coupons from the pen manufacturers online.

Ben Lafon did a demonstration for making sugar boards, which are an easy to make solid sugar mix that you can place on top of a hive (under the inner cover) to feed your bees over the winter.

To make a sugar board:

- Place 10 lbs of sugar in a 5 gal bucket
- Add 1c of water and mix (a paint mixer in a drill works great)
- You can add a little vinegar or some Honey Bee Healthy which attracts bees and is good for them.
- Then, trowel the sugar mix into a 2" high frame with a mesh or chicken wire on the bottom. Be sure to add a block of wood into the frame before adding the sugar to leave a hole for ventilation.
- It will dry and harden in a day or two and you can install it on your hive.
- Best to install until it gets pretty cold (e.g. after Thanksgiving) so they are in hibernation mode. You can install it quickly on a warmish day.
- Target hives that weigh less than 100 lbs (for a two deep hive). Use a luggage scale to weigh one end of your hive and multiply by two.

We will be doing a hands on demonstration at the Foothills Learning Center at 10am on Sunday, October 27.

Idaho Public TV's *Outdoor Idaho* [Beyond the Buzz](#) is a great show about beekeeping in Idaho.

We auctioned off 5 gallons of honey produced by the bees at the FLC. The sold price was \$400 split between Jim McMahon and Kathryn Montgomery. Thanks to Jim and Kathryn for their generous donation – enjoy your honey!

Ben Lafon gave a presentation on Beekeeping in Croatia from his recent trip there. It was fascinating to see their approach to hives made from tree trunks and a cool trailer with sliding shelves to deploy 30 hives for pollination that didn't require forklifting them off a truck or trailer.