

# TVBC 2024-11 Member Meeting

There were over 50 members attending today. All officers were present. Junior Bee Club had 3 little bees attending. There were a couple of new attendees.

President Laura Otto made a **call for dues** and announced our new rate of \$25/family per year. But wait, tonight and tonight only sign up for 2025 and pay just \$20.

Jeff Bergland announced the **2025 OSU Beekeeping program**. Cost for in-class instruction (in Boise) is \$300. There are four, four-hour classes at Jim McMahon's shop in Eagle. If you want to get your Apprentice Certification there are a few other requirements concluding in an (open book) Exam. More information is available [here](#). The TVBC has 50 apprentices that have completed their certification since 2013.

President Otto acknowledged **our latest certified apprentice Ben Lafone**. Ben was raffling off a nice top bar hive.

Jim McMahon mentioned **two upcoming Beekeeping conferences** (more info at [idabees.org](http://idabees.org)):

1. Idaho Honey Industry Association annual conference - Boise - Dec 12-13
2. American Beekeeping Federation - Reno - Jan 7-11

Our **annual meeting** will be held in mid January. We will be discussing the club's priorities for 2025, formally electing new officers and discussing other club business. Anyone is welcome and your input is valued.

With popular demand our **hands-on workshops** will return in 2025 conducted by Irene Lucy and Garrett Hannah:

1. Feb 1 - 9-12 **All About Honey** – things you can make with honey. Fermented honey, infused honey, whipped honey, honey cake and many other yummy goodies.
2. Feb 1 1-3 - **Mead 101** – Honey and water fermented into a lovely alcoholic beverage. \$20 at the time of class for the ingredients and you will walk home with a gallon of mead.
3. Feb 15 9-12 - **Mind Your Beeswax** – things you can make with Beeswax. Lotion, candles, salves, food wraps and many many more. You will take home samples of many of these products and see how a few are made. \$40 at the time of the class
4. Reserve your place for \$10, non-refundable. These workshops will SELL OUT FAST so do not delay to reserve your spot today.

Gail Osborn and Robert Sperry talked to us about **what to do with dead outs** – hives that have lost their bees. How can you tell in the winter with an insulated hive that you don't want to open up. You can use a stethoscope to listen for bees buzzing inside. You look in the entrance with a flashlight. If you don't see any activity with either of those methods, you can open up your hive.

It is important NOT to leave your dead hive outside. It is likely full of valuable resources like drawn comb, honey and pollen. If you leave it outside, pests, like wax moths will infest your hive and destroy those valuable hive products.

So, open up your hive and start removing frames and looking to see if you can determine what may have gone wrong. Pull out the frames and clean out any dead bees (don't worry about dead capped or partially capped larva). Clean up the dead bees, putting them in a trash can or vacuum them up. Frames can be frozen, sprayed with a mild chlorine solution or stored with Certan or Para-Moth to decontaminate them from moths, viral and other pathogens. Store your frames in bags or better, plastic containers with sealing lids. It IS ok to store your boxes, bottom boards and covers outside but be sure they are in a dry place and well ventilated. If you have room, it's best to store them inside too.

President Laura talked about **winterizing hives**. Make sure they are mite free, well fed, well ventilated and protected from wind. Your smallest entrance reducer should be used. The typical hive configuration in the Treasure Valley is two deep boxes. Remove all honey supers, queen excluders, internal feeders, etc. Otherwise, bees can survive even extreme extended cold. It makes some beekeepers feel better about themselves if they add a small layer of insulation. One inch closed cell foam (the pink stuff) can be placed on top of the hive with a brick or rock to keep it from blowing off. Some folks also like to wrap their hives with foil backed bubble wrapped. Be sure if you DO insulate that you are not impeding ventilation or the entrance. A good rule of thumb going into winter is that your hive should weigh 100 pounds or more. You can use a luggage scale to weigh one end of your hive and double that number. Monitor the weight throughout the winter and if it gets light (less than 70-80 pounds) you should feed with sugar, a sugar board or candy board. Directions for making and applying these are on our website. Most members do an Oxalic Acid vapor treatment in November which is very effective at this time of year since there is no capped brood.

This is **President Laura's final meeting** as she concludes her two-year term. We owe her many thanks for a wonderful two years. She also thanked many members including Jacob Westrick and Steve Sweet. She also acknowledged Treasurer Rena Alexander and Vice President Ann Cochran for their service over the past two years. She acknowledged her chief drone (and husband) Vic Otto. Vic has also contributed hand turned custom bowls for FIVE YEARS of club meetings. ***That's 50 bowls folks!***

Benoit Lafone reminded of our **FLC inspection at 2pm on Saturday**. They will be weighing the hives and doing an Oxalic Acid Vapor treatment.

Mike Morrison donated **\$2500 to Toys for Tots** through his hive hardware sales. Thanks to all members who support Mike with your hardware needs.

There is no meeting in December. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year – See you in 2025.