

# TVBC 2025-01 Member Meeting

## Meridian Senior Center

### Attendance

- 93 members attended.
- 22 members used the QR “Sign-in” code and 5 of those indicated that they were new to TVBC. David Ragsdale was randomly chosen as our sign-in winner of 6 raffle tickets.
- About 10 people raised their hands indicating that they were new to TVBC.

### Agenda

#### **6:30 pm Meeting called to order**

- President Brooklin Gore Introduced himself to the club membership as the 2025 President of TVBC and extended an invitation to all members to call him with questions, concerns or any ideas they might have in the future regarding TVBC business. He can be reached at 208-867-0546 or [bjgore@gmail.com](mailto:bjgore@gmail.com).
- Introduced the new and returning officers: Rena Alexander - past and present Treasurer; Robert Sperry - Vice President; Shanna Burbank - Secretary
- Presented the 2024 TVBC “In Review” which highlighted our extensive community outreach of over 53,000 people in the Treasure Valley by educating our members/community, advocating for bees and bee health by eradicating mites, pollinating flowers and trees in the Treasure Valley and beyond. We strive to be a club where Scientific Methods guide us to be better beekeepers. Many in our membership are dedicated to explore and learn of new innovations in beekeeping not just in the United States but travel to international apiaries and bring back that knowledge to share with our membership. We also enjoy and build positive and supportive relationships with Treasure Valley entities such as Edwards Greenhouse, Zamzows, Idaho Botanical Garden and The Honey Store, to name a few. We have even had members participate on TV programs such as Outdoor Idaho, D&B informational ads and Idaho News channel 6.

- We are in partnership with the Oregon State Master Beekeepers program and have over 50 certified Apprentice level beekeepers among our membership. There are some in our membership that travel to Purdue University in Indiana to learn more about queen bees. Most recently we have some of our members participating in a Varroxxsan study to learn more about eradicating the mite populations in our hives.
- We strive to be a club that uses data to strengthen our club's mission and purpose. We gave a 2024 survey to our members and it was uncovered that 250 members manage 400 hives in the Treasure Valley. We also learned that 90 swarms were caught in by our members last year.
- Members were reminded to "Check in" with the new QR code provided on the tables which will not only track our attendance numbers for the meeting but it is also an opportunity to give the club officers feedback. And you could win free raffle tickets!
- Last year our club spent your club money wisely having spent \$214 dollars less than we made last year. Our #1 source of club income are membership dues of which is put back into our mission and purpose of serving our community with education and advocacy of all things bees. Our second source is the raffle.
- This year we are going to attempt to make our club more social within the membership. After President Gore made reference to the movie Oppenheimer, he prompted those in attendance to introduce themselves to one another because our membership has some really amazing people in it and you will never know how amazing other members are if we don't reach out and get to know one another. We may even have a Noble Prize winner in our midst.
- Officers of 2024 and 2025 were recognized: Rena Alexander (Treasurer 2023-2024) and Laura Otto (President 2023-2024) came up to receive recognition and were given an engraved golden hive tool as well as a framed plaque.
- Most active new members: Benoit Lafon (FLC), Garrett Hanna (Edwards Greenhouse/Education) and Shanna Burbank (FLC) were recognized with a framed plaque.

### **Re-Presentation of the IHIA Idaho Honey Industry Association**

Jim McMahon, in his role as a Director for ([IHIA](#)) [Idaho Honey Industry Association](#) re-presented **Mike Morrison** the IHIA Hall of Fame award. This award is given annually, the highest honor IHIA presents. Mike was recognized for his outstanding efforts supporting hobbyists and sideliners, providing instruction and hands-on education to beekeepers across the state of Idaho and including periodic visits to clubs in Oregon and Wyoming. Mike's work with [Purdue University's Queen breeding Program](#), his extensive work as a mentor to hundreds of keepers, especially TVBC members. Jim also presented **Benicia Morrison**, Mike's wife, with a bouquet of flowers and thanked

her for all of her work supporting Mike and his many beekeeping and bee education activities across several states over many years. Jim commented that behind every successful man is a woman probably doing 99% of the work! This and Mike's award were greeted by sustained applause from the audience.

### **Club ambassadors were recognized**

**President Brooklin Gore** asked Jim McMahon to present **Mike Morrison** the very first TVBC Ambassador award for his many efforts on behalf of, not only the TVBC, but also his sustained performance over many years as commented above. Mike has also been very supportive of the national organization, [Hives For Heroes](#) quietly donating his time and knew as well as used equipment and support of our veterans program.

**President Gore** then presented the second TVBC ambassador award to [Jim McMahon](#) in recognition of his work as a mentor and supporter of the Oregon State University Master Beekeeping Program serving as a mentor, classroom instructor, and providing his workshop as the classroom for the OSU apprentice program for the past two years. Jim's efforts as an ambassador include serving for several years as the IHIA Director representing hobbyist beekeepers and his recent election to the board directors of the [American Beekeeping Federation](#) where he represents small scale and side liner beekeeper across the United States. Jim is also the state lead for [Hives For Heroes](#) representing Idaho and Oregon.

**Steve Sweet's** name was announced as a TVBC Ambassador but he was unable to attend this meeting due a conflict and will be formally recognized at a future TVBC meeting

**Bill Terry (Just Bill)** was announced as a TVBC Ambassador for his continual service to our club running the "used equipment program and manning the [Western Idaho State Fair](#) TVBC booth year after year. He was instrumental in tremendous outreach and education that our club does at the yearly State fair and Garden City

**Jeff Berglund** was officially recognized as a TVBC Ambassador and given a framed certificate for his many roles he plays in the TVBC. Jeff's dedication and commitment to serve new beekeepers via his involvement in the OSU Master Beekeeper Program as it furthers our club's mission, and purpose to use educationally sound scientific beekeeping methods at the forefront of our member's practice. Jeff is also key to keeping our club meeting raffles going. His work with the raffle is the number two money generator for the club and he also brings **Fun!** to our Meetings.

**Irene Westrick** was announced as a TVBC Ambassador and presented her framed certificate recognizing her for work over the years heading up the Boise Schools Community outreach classes for Backyard Beekeeping. Irene and her husband Jacob Westrick have hosted many club events at their home and have as of last year begun holding classes on the many uses of beeswax, honey, and now Mead making with

Garrett Hannah. For many years Irene used the last name of Lucy, which is actually the name of her cat. *I guess now the cat's out of the bag?*

**Marc Von Huene** (*also known as Mr. Zoom*), announced as an Ambassador was not in attendance since he was teaching at the Emmet Bee club tonight. He'll be officially recognized at a future meeting

**Kevin Duesman** was announced and awarded the **TVBC Lifetime Achievement Award**. Kevin was one of the founding members of the club, serving as its first Vice President. He is well known as a scientist, inventor (multiple patents issued in his name), mentor and connection for new Nucs, and even more importantly as one of the most talented and knowledgeable beekeepers in the club. He gives generously of his time and skills contributing significantly to members of the TVBC. His shop served as the teaching headquarters in Idaho for new keepers enrolled in the OSU program. A photo of the inscription on his 12 inch tall hour glass is appears below.

**7:00** Melinda Jean Stafford presented to the membership lessons she has learned by being a beekeeper:

1. How to deal with failure.
2. How interconnected our world really is.
3. To appreciate every bite of food on her plate.
4. The hive is a community and we as members of TVBC are a hive.
5. Every bee has a job, role, duty.
6. Each bee matters...
7. The queen is important for the population but the worker bees are critical.
8. If the wax makers quit and the foragers quit, the hive would starve.
9. Our club would not be what it is if the officers did not work, just like the bees.
10. Bees are adaptable and know how to handle a time of crisis...some workers begin making solutions and taking care of the other bees' needs. This happens over and over again in this club with members such as Anita and Luis Gonzalez as they hosted our Ringleader's meetings when we did not have a space to meet. JD's mafioso connections helped our club obtain a storage shed for the FLC supplies.

Melinda posed to the membership, "What time, talent or treasure can you bring forward to help our hive thrive?" "Do you have fresh perspectives? Are you eager and ready to dive in?" "Consider bringing your perspective to a ringleaders meeting." "Are you looking to build community?" We have 10 new people at this meeting. We can use your talents to build up our club. Melinda recognized Joyce as she faithfully sells club merchandise every meeting. She was new and jumped right in. "Can you help broaden our reach?" "We are only as strong as a single worker bee." Consider joining in our activities and take on roles within our club. WE need volunteers to staff our fair booth,

tech experts, social media masters, teachers. WE are also looking for someone to take over the Treasurer commitment for 2026 to release Rena. Come one, come all!

## **7:10 Workshops**

Irene Westrick announced that she will be hosting and teaching three bee/honey related classes of which two classes will be happening this Saturday(February 1, 2025) at her house.

### Feb 1, 2025

Let's Talk Honey Workshop from 9am to 12 noon.

\$10 per person and this fee goes to the club. On the day of the class each person must bring \$40 to pay for the materials and supplies that Irene will provide. Students will learn how to make goods out of honey. Lots of goodies will be able to be taken home by the students.

### Feb 1, 2025

Mead Class with Garrett Hannah from 1pm to 3pm

Bring a bubbler and a carboy....\$10 to secure your place in the class which goes to the club. There will be testing of different types of mead and you will be able to take some home.

### February 15, 2025

Mind Your Beeswax (Class #1) from 9am to 12 noon

\$10 per person and this fee goes to the club. On the day of the class each person must bring \$40 to pay for the materials and supplies that Irene will provide. Students will learn how to make goods out of beeswax such as body butter, salve and lip balm...to name a few. Lots of goodies will be able to be taken home by the students.

## **7:13 Breakout sessions**

- Mentoring sign ups and Irene Westrick class sign-up station at the front of the room.
- Benoit Lafon and Robert Sperry will be building hive boxes frames with traditional and wax foundations; Dave Pook will be demonstrating how to make easy sugar board feeders for your bees.
- Kevin Duesman and Mike Morrison will talk about that how to buy bees for the upcoming season.
- Along the wall you can pay your dues, buy merch and raffle tickets.

President Gore reminded members that people with name tags on have been through the Oregon State Master Beekeeper program and you can ask them any question you might have.

### **7:51 Wrap up**

President Gore brought the meeting back to order from breakout stations and he followed up with important information about how to find our TVBC website at [idabees.org](http://idabees.org). He stated that much can be found on the club website: swarm catching help, buying hive hardware, etc.

The members were also reminded of our club's mentorship program. WE love to mentor new beekeepers where we match new beekeepers with experienced beekeepers.

Benoit Lafon shared that nothing will be happening at the FLC in February 1 but he will arrange on the 8th of February a "Build-It" date at a location to be announced.

Members will be able to bring their wooden ware to this event for help in building a strong and lasting hive box for your future bees.

A mention of the raffle items that are often donated and gifted to our club by Vic Otto (handmade wooden bowls) and Jeff. Jeff will take unwanted White Elephant gifts that might be lying around your house to sell in a future raffle.

### **7:55 Raffle, adjourn**

Brooklin thanked everyone for coming which began the raffle and the TVBC meeting officially ended.