

Treasure Valley Beekeeper Club  
April 22, 2025 - Meridian Senior Center

Meeting started at 6:30pm  
Attendance: 14 new people  
104 people in total attendance

Brooklin welcomed everyone for coming and recognized and thanked the officers. (See Brooklin's PowerPoint.)

**Welcome** everyone around the table and welcome someone at another table - Let's get social...this is one of our goals as a club for 2025.

Brooklin gave some more **shout outs** and thanked various members for their dedication and service in volunteering/community outreach events. (See Brooklin's PowerPoint for specific details.)

Congratulations to our newest **OSU 2025** graduates:  
Ruth Crone, Megan Montague and Steve Montague.  
The next round of OSU Master Beekeeping Certification Apprentice level classes will begin in January 2026. See Jeff Bergland for more information.

### **More Announcements**

Thank you Gregg and Kay Heller for using the QR sign in code at last month's meeting... you two were the winners of the **6 free raffle tickets**. Brooklin let us know that 90% of every dollar spent on the TVBC raffle goes directly back into the club as funding to continue our outreach to the community.

**Hive hardware exchange program** will be up and running soon with the help of Kevin Duesman. If you have any hive hardware that you want to donate, please contact Kevin (info on our website). You can also bring stuff to the monthly meeting.

At tonight's we gave away a Warre Hive and kids bee suits. They are not part of the raffle.

We are now able to take **donations on our website**. If you are called to collect a swarm and the person who called you out to collect that swarm wants to give you money for your efforts please direct them to our website's [donations page](#). If you know folks who would like to contribute to the club but aren't ready to join this is a great way for them to do so. We are working on registering our club as an organization that can accept tax deductible donations.

**Volunteering** - The members of TVBC have talked to over 500 people this year alone via our various events at the FLC, Edwards Green house and at STEM nights around the Valley. We have some upcoming events and we need volunteers to teach and share what they know about bees. **Take a look at the club's calendar and see you can come out and volunteer. We need you!** We will be working on a 'volunteering guide' to help volunteers understand what they should do at specific types of events and the resources (e.g. honey sticks, handouts, observation hives) that are available for events.

Nuc and package updates - Brooklin gave a summary of the experience to get the nucs that Steve Sweet and Kevin Duesman provided for our club. Mike Morrison also provided bees and shared that he has great success getting his packages to Boise. No problems with either deliveries of bees into the Treasure Valley.

### **Hive Survey 2024-2025 - Summary**

(see Brooklin's PP for more details)

- \* 75 people responded out of 187 members.
- \* The survey helps us learn how to be better beekeepers so please participate next year if you did not this year.
- \* **Mortality rate** - hobbyist beekeepers had only 29% losses compared with 62% loss rate among commercial beekeepers.
- \* Mike Morrison stated that hobbyist beekeepers usually lose more hives than commercial beekeepers year over year...but this year is different.
- \* People that have more beekeeping experience overwintered their hives more successfully than less experienced beekeepers.
- \* 32% were formally trained and 22% were not trained.
- \* 23% of the members surveyed treated their bees for mites and 32% of those surveyed did not treat their bees for mites.
- \* 26% of those that answered the survey fed their bees and 39% of those surveyed did not feed their bees....Do you think starvation might have killed those bees that did not get fed? FEED YOUR BEES!!!! Death by starvation is avoidable!
- \* Bravo to the hobbyist beekeeper...we have 33% success at keeping our bees alive over the commercial beekeeper.

Breakout began 7:07pm and stopped at 7:37pm

Breakout summaries (see Brooklin's PowerPoint)

Meeting ended at 7:40pm

Raffle began at 7:41pm