



The

LCBA BUZZ



January 2025



Providing Education in Sustainable Beekeeping

HOLIDAY PARTY WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8TH

Plan to attend the holiday party at St. Timothy Episcopal Church, 1826 SW Snively Ave., Chehalis. We'll start at 6pm, and go our usual meeting time, until 8:30. The club provides meat; *bring a covered dish to share*. Bring family too! We will have a raffle - so *bring dollar bills!* The raffle proceeds support our youth scholarship program. We look forward to an evening of fellowship and festivities as we bring in 2025!

Board Members

www.LewisCountyBeekeepers.org

President: Bill Cummings, billdabeekeeper@gmail.com

Vice President: Ross Merker, ross.merker1234@gmail.com

Secretary: Beverly Phoenix, bevpoo3@gmail.com

Treasurer: Theresa Arlotto, theresaar@protonmail.com

Community Outreach Coordinator: Dottie Blackstone, dotblackstone@gmail.com

Education Coordinator: Noel Sharp, nsharp928@gmail.com

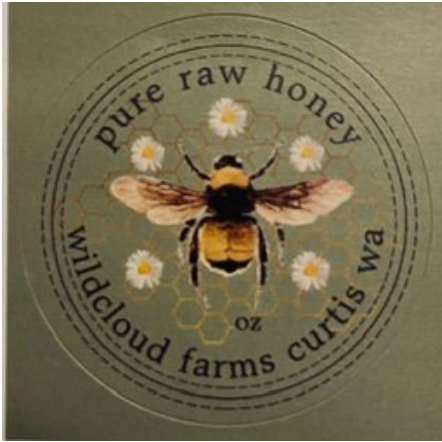
Mentorship Coordinator: Naomi Elliott, naomielliott@live.com

Apiary Manager: Joe Angelo, joe.angelo52@yahoo.com



Let's talk ART!

I recently thought about labels we put on our jars of honey we sell - very unique, individual works of art! They express a bit of who we are. I thought it might be fun to feature those labels here. So, please send me a copy of your label, either to bsaap@yahoo.com OR bevp003@gmail.com. I'll put any I get (and I hope I get a LOT) in the newsletter. If you don't have a personalized label, maybe seeing these will inspire you!



Ross Merker said "we called our farm a farmstead due to it being built in 1900 with numerous outbuildings and that name just seemed right. Honey of course is produced here."



Lauren Mizar explained: Their farm is Wildcloud Farm - having spent most of their lives in southern California, when a few clouds appear in the sky they most likely amount to nothing. But she and Eric find here in the PNW when a few clouds appear on the horizon it is very likely that in a very short time they will cover the entire sky and pour down on you. These powerful PNW Wild Clouds still surprise the heck out of Lauren.



I deal with both bees and beavers here - was thinking about a gate sign of "Bev's Bees and Beavers so natural progression was just bees (especially since the beavers are a nuisance!)"



Theresa Arlotto said "when my daughter was younger, she and I would often go swimming. We would spend much of our time pretending to be mermaids., she the older sister and myself the younger sister, 'Sylvestrina'. I have kept this name for creative projects and farm products. The tree is for Theresa and picture is essentially the sun and the sea where Sylvestrina lives."

WHO'S WHO IN LCBA



Theresa Arlotto, the current LCBA treasurer, has been beekeeping for two years with long Langstroth hives with varying degrees of success as she learns long hive management. She chose long hives to prevent back strain from heavy lifting. Theresa holds a PhD in molecular embryology and spent her post doctoral time in New Zealand and South Africa. She enjoys gardening, reading, collage art in her spare time and is partial to orange and circles. She and husband Cory met in Springfield Illinois where they were both Red Cross volunteers helping with the aftermath of tornados.

Addendum to Phil Wilson's paragraph in the last issue (neither of us had prepared for this new feature...). Phil says in addition to clam digging he enjoys coin collecting, fishing, hunting, and traveling with their truck and trailer.

This will be a regular feature of the newsletter, so if I haven't gotten to you and you'd like to be featured, grab me at a meeting! Let's get to know each other!

One use for your cleaned wax....

Want to make some lotion bars with your beeswax? They are a great moisturizing long lasting product (and no plastic lotion bottles to throw away!) You'll need beeswax, coconut oil, shea butter and, optionally, vitamin E oil, or essential oil if you want a scented bar, and some sort of pliable silicone mold. To calculate mixture amount, pour water into your mold, then carefully pour the water into a calibrated measuring cup. Then divide that amount into thirds. Melt equal parts of beeswax, coconut oil and shea butter to equal the volume your mold will hold in a pan on LOW heat. Once melted, remove from heat. Add a bit (1/4 tsp. or so) of vitamin E oil if you want, or a few drops of essential oil if you want a scent (my favorite is lemongrass). Pour into your mold and let set overnight before unmolding. You can pour a couple of unscented first, then add your essential oil to the remaining mix to have both unscented and scented in the same batch. These are great for gifts; keep one at each of your sinks to use after handwashing. They are nice after you dry off from your shower and rub on warm skin where it tends to be dry, like elbows....



February meeting - EXCITING!



BEE THERE!!

Anyone who went to the WASBA conference in October will remember Dr. Ramesh Sagili (waggle dance, anyone?). He is a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker who will speak on varroa management (always important to understand), and bee nutrition. Important for our bees year around, but critical coming into spring with increasing brood production, nectar and pollen gathering, and honey production. We'd like to have a full room, and are planning to invite the East County club as well as the Olympia Beekeepers. Please join us Wednesday February 12th at 6pm. Speaker will start at 6:30.



Bees are doing well at the club apiary. All the hives have a HiveHugger crown on the inner cover for R30 insulation, and insulating wraps around the hive bodies. Several of the hives have voracious appetites and are consuming all the fondant and hard candy that has been put out. They all were mite treated with an OA vaporization in November which will be repeated as soon as there's a decent day hopefully the first week of January; the food supply will be replenished and we'll be ready to go into February and start a new spring buildup period. The hives are all numbered, and a hive log is kept in the bee shed.

Happy
New Year

Coming soon: swap meet! Bring your unwanted bee equipment to sell, find things you need or want to try from others! Tentatively coming in March on a Saturday. Good time to connect with other beekeepers in the area and share tips and tricks.

Dues and registration fees are DUE!!

Remember to pay your *apiary registration fee*, late after April 1st when late fees apply. You can fill out a registration form online and print; registration has to be mailed with a check but you will receive your registration by email. Go to WA Dept. of agriculture to download registration or renewal form. Enter 'apiary registration' in the search tab. Fee based on number of hives you plan to keep in 2025. You can also read rules governing sale of honey - primarily what information your label should contain.

LCBA membership dues are due January 1; you can get a form at a meeting from Theresa who will collect money as well. You can also download a form from the LCBA web page and bring it to a meeting or mail to Theresa at the address listed on the form. Dues are \$40 for a family or regular membership; \$20 for under 21, and no fee for under 18 youth membership.

WASBA individual membership dues are payable now, covering January 1 to December 31. You can join or renew on the WASBA website. Membership gives you access to a variety of beekeeping related resources and experiences. If you enroll in a WASBA certified beekeeping course (beginning, apprentice, journeyman or master) WASBA membership is included in the course cost.

Remember, if you have something you'd like to offer for auction at the monthly meetings, bring it in! Bee related or not, proceeds from sale of any auction or raffle item goes into our youth scholarship fund! Eggs, a book, a plant, spare hive box, anything you think someone else might use! You get the satisfaction of clearing your home, and helping someone else!

