



The

**LCBA BUZZ**



June 2025

*Providing Education in Sustainable Beekeeping*

**Monthly meetings in room 109 of  
Washington Hall, Centralia College;  
exceptions will be published in advance.  
Club apiary is at 765 North Fork Road**

## July activities and events



**July 9** - regular monthly meeting - Dawn Beck is our featured speaker. Some of you heard her speak at the 2024 conference and know she's a dynamic speaker! She will talk about fat bodies, critical information to understand as we start thinking about having thriving colonies going into fall. We are meeting in **ROOM 103** as we have invited the Olympia and East Lewis County bee clubs. **ROOM 103 at 6 pm.**

**July 20** Apiary workshop 1:00 pm at the apiary

**July 27** - our annual picnic, held this year on Sunday from 1-4. It's at the Alexander Park off Highway 6 just off I-5, Donahue Road to Riverside Road W. ***Bring a side dish to share and cash to purchase tickets*** for some great raffle items donated by members and local merchants!

Phil Wilson sent the following video of a queen mating flight

🌐 Save The Bees on Instagram: "Came and w..."



2025 Theme: *"Healthy Bees, Happy Beekeepers"*

The Full Speakers List is coming soon... stay tuned and get your tickets today for updates! The WASBA 2025 Conference not only will have another amazing lineup of knowledgeable speakers but this year we're planning another "No-Rules" Honey Tasting Contest, a Friday Evening Banquet Dinner, NEW Silent Auction, and getting even more incredible Vendors and Sponsors to participate! Speaking of participation... **all WASBA Member Clubs get a FREE VENDOR BOOTH at the Conference**, which you can sign up for today by emailing [info@wasba.org](mailto:info@wasba.org)! We are also seeking Sponsors, Vendors, and Auction Item Donations to help us put on this great event for you all, please email [info@wasba.org](mailto:info@wasba.org). Stay tuned, and check [EventBrite](#) often!

**The club has a manual extractor for extracting honey available to loan.**

You will need to make arrangements with Bev (bev003@gmail) Ross (ross.merker1234@gmail.com) or Theresa (thresaar@protonmail.com) to pick up at the club apiary. You can borrow it for one week, so it is recommended that you have all your supers pulled prior to borrowing. It must be returned **CLEAN!** If you don't want to lift heavy supers you can pull one capped frame as it is completed and keep it in a cool room in a tub until you have pulled all you want to extract. It is ONLY the extractor, so you will need to have whatever uncapping tools you want to use, an uncapping tank, and buckets (recommend at least one with a honey gate), etc.. Low cost food grade 5 gallon buckets are available at Walmart in the paint department (they're marked food grade). Woods and Beeline sell honey gates. The club is tentatively planning an extraction workshop in August so you can see the process before you attempt it. Labeling laws for honey are found in the RCW's for the state. Most local sellers provide a label with the product 'Honey' identified, plus the name and address of the producer (some just provide a phone number rather

than publishing their address) and net weight (be aware different brand jars hold different amounts even if they are labeled pint or quart, so ideally you will weight the jars.)

# Entering honey in the SWW Fair in August

Entry categories are :youth division (under age 18) honey jar, and other honey product. For adult, comb honey with sample, honey in jar (light amber, amber, or dark amber), and other.

You need to complete an entry form online by midnight Sunday August 10, and bring your entry in to the Floral Building between noon and 6pm on Monday August 11.

Please review the handbook for open class entries. You can go to [SouthwestWashingtonfair.org](http://SouthwestWashingtonfair.org) - under the exhibits tab go to entries, then open class exhibits to find the open class handbook. Honey is under Department G, Agriculture beginning on page 22 of the handbook.

It is very important to enter a **clean jar** - we recommend you bring it in wrapped in a towel and ask whoever accepts your entry to not touch your jar with bare hands. The judging forms are printed below

## Comb Honey Judging Scorecard

Accuracy of Cut edge: square, 4 parallel sided cuts	15
Neatness of cut edge: no ragged edges	15
Uniform depth and filling of cells, even appearance	15
All cells complete: absence of uncapped cells	15
Clean dry cappings: no pollen, no leaking cappings	15
Uniform color of honey	15
Cleanliness and general appearance of package	10

Total Points Available and Awarded 100

Judges comments:

## Jar Honey Judging Scorecard

### Container appearance - 10 points

a) no fingerprints, dirt or smudges etc. on jar	5
b) lid seal free of honey, rim of jar clean, etc.	5

### Moisture content - 20 maximum

a) Less than 15.5	0
b) 15.5 - 17.0	20
c) 17.1 - 18.0	15
d) without wax	10
e) greater than 18.6	0

### Absence of Crystals - 10 points

10

### Cleanliness of honey - 40 points

a) without foam or bubbles	8
b) without lint or dirt	8
c) without other debris, etc.	8
d) without wax	8
e) without bee body parts	8

### Flavor - 10

a) free from fermentation smell or taste	5
b) free from scorched/burned flavor	5

### Accuracy of jar filling - 10

Precise filling - head room between 3/8 and 1/2 inch with no visible gap between honey level and cap

10

Total Points Available and Awarded



**T Shirts (\$15) Hoodies (\$25)  
and caps (\$15) available at the  
monthly meetings**

## **Filling your Queenline jar for the fair**

As you can see from the judging criteria, a clean jar and a honey specimen that is free of debris is essential. You need to plan at least a week in advance of entering to fill your jar. Fill it with filtered honey - we recommend at least a 400 micron filter. Filter more than you will need to fill the jar. Fill the jar slightly above the fill line - head room between  $\frac{3}{8}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch with no visible gap between the bottom of the lid and the honey. Overfill slightly - maybe a teaspoon - and let the jar sit in a warm place for a few days. You then need to remove all the 'foam' and bubbles. One simple way to do this is by taking a small bit of plastic wrap and touching it to the 'foam' then quickly lift it. You may need to do this several times. A toothpick can aid in this process, using the toothpick to press the plastic wrap onto the spot of foam, or lifting foam out with the toothpick alone. You may need to add a tiny bit of honey or remove some, to get it to the correct jar level. Adding honey may necessitate repeating the foam removal process - this is why it's helpful to very slightly overfill in the beginning. Once your jar is full and the inside of the lid is clean, cap your jar. Wipe it of all fingerprints or dirt - alcohol on a clean cloth helps. Bring your honey to enter kept upright, wrapped in a towel or bag- don't let any fingers touch your jar! People who take your jar at the fair should not touch it either. We will place your jar in a paper bag, and the judges will all wear gloves. Good luck!

Entries should be brought to the fair on **Monday August 11 12-6pm.** Bring your entry to Floral Hall. Bring your entry form which needs to be completed by midnight Sunday August 10!

## GARAGE SALE PAGE

If you have bee related equipment you no longer want or use and would like to sell it, you can send photos, price, and your contact information to Bev at [bevp003@gmail.com](mailto:bevp003@gmail.com) and it will go in the newsletter. You can also donate to the club to 'auction' at the monthly membership meetings to grow the youth scholarship fund as an alternative to selling them.



heated uncapping knife \$20

set of 2 capping bags to put in extractor  
used once, \$30 new, both for \$15

email [bevp003@gmail.com](mailto:bevp003@gmail.com)



Manual extractor still  
available, \$300, Dadant 4  
frame.



The Honey Bee Health Coalition has a wealth of resources, with an excellent page of integrated pest management for varroa control. The importance of varroa control is critical for maintaining health colonies, and successful overwintering your bees.

<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/>

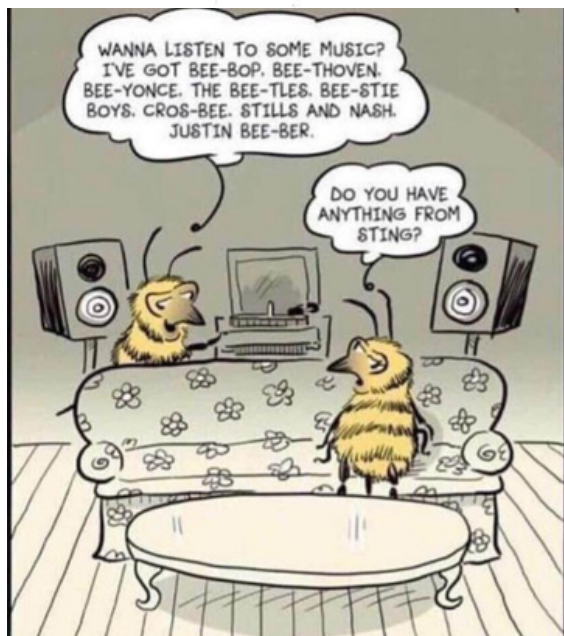
We're still taking donated quart jars to jar our club honey if you have one or more laying around you're not going to use. They don't need to have lids or rings. Thanks for donating (and thank you, **Dean**, for your generous donation of cash to purchase any needed supplies)!



This chart shows current FDA approved mite treatment options. Coming soon will be Apivar 2, which does not require a wait period to put supers on after treatment, and it has no temperature requirements.

EPA approved Varroa Mite Treatments:										Prepared by Marta Soltyszevska V.2.0
Type	Varroa mite Treatment/ Active ingredient	Method (see EPA Regulation for details, required PPE and directions for use)	Efficacy	Treatment Duration (see Label for details)	Temperature requirements (daytime)	Supers allowed?	Brood Presence	Colony size (frames of bees- FoB)	Other considerations	EPA Reg. link
Essential Oil	Apiguard® / Thymol (25%)	Gel laid in tray/sheet on top of the frames in the center of the brood nest. Gel slowly evaporates and bees help spreading it around the hive trying to remove it. Series of applications can be done during the treatment dependent on temperature, colony size and mite infestation levels.	74% - 95%	Total of 4-6 weeks of series of gel dose applications, using new gel dose with each time (see label for details).	60F - 105F Temperature sensitive (see label).	NO, but you can add supers immediately after treatment is completed and gel cans are removed. <b>Don't use during nectar flow.</b>	Doesn't penetrate brood cappings, so presence of capped brood lowers the efficacy.	Can be used with Nucs & small colonies in smaller doses. Best to combine weak colonies before treatment.	Reduce the entrances, close screened bottom boards. Workers must have access to the gel - you need at least 1/4" space between top of the gel can & the bottom of the inner cover, so rim spacer or extra hive box can be added for proper evaporation. <b>Overdosing</b> can cause absconding, increased mortality and defensiveness.	7967 1-1
	Api Life Var® / Thymol (74%), Eucalyptus oil (16%), Menthol (4.7%)	Flat tablets/ waffles placed on the top of the frames in the corners of the brood nest (not over the broodnest!)	70% - 90%	3 applications, with total of 26-32 days: 1st: 7-10 days 2nd: 7-10 days 3rd: 12 days	64F - 95F	NO, and need to wait 1 month before adding supers. <b>Don't use during nectar flow.</b>	Doesn't penetrate brood cappings, so presence of capped brood lowers the efficacy.	The colony should be at least 8-20 FoB (frames of bees).	Reduce the entrances, close screened bottom boards. Apply in the morning or evening (coolest temperatures). Don't apply when robbing is happening.	7329 1-1
	Formic Pro / Formic Acid (42%) new/improved form	Pads/strips placed across the top of the frames over the brood nest.	83% - 97%	2 options: - 2 strips for 14 days or - 1 strip for 10 days, replaced with 2nd strip for 10 days- total of 20 days	50F - 85F during treatment, with 1st 3-4 days being critical.	YES, supers can be left during treatment. Colony should be well fed before the treatment and have food reserves.	Penetrates wax cappings - effective with brood present, kills mites in capped brood.	Colony should be at minimum of 10,000 bees, covering approximately 6 deep frames.	Need 1/2" bottom opening of the width of the hive (remove entrance reducer), close screened bottom boards (if used). <b>Don't disturb the colony during the treatment</b> , best if applied 3 days after an inspection to minimize queen mortality & absconding. Dead brood removal and bee mortality may be observed.	7571 0-3
	MiteAway Quick Strips®/ Formic Acid (46.7%) original form	Pads placed across the top of the frames over the brood nest.	61% - 98%	2 options: - 2 strips for 7 days or - 21 day treatment (1 strip for 14 days, replaced with 2nd strip for extra 7 days).	See details for Formic Pro.	See details for Formic Pro.	See details for Formic Pro.	See details for Formic Pro.	See details for Formic Pro.	7571 0-2
Organic Acid	Api-Bioxal / Oxalic Acid dehydrate 97%	Powder oxalic acid with 3 allowed methods: 1/ vaporized at the hive entrance with special vaporizer 2/ dribbled/ trickled over the seems of bees (O.A. mixed with 1:1 sugar syrup) 3/ sprayed on clustered bees in packages (oxalic acid is mixed with 1:1 sugar syrup).	82% - 99%	10 minutes or less.	No restrictions, best if between 37F - 100F with humidity less than 65%.	YES, supers can be left during treatment.	Doesn't penetrate brood cappings, so presence of capped brood lowers the efficacy.	Can be used with packages, swarms and colonies as long as they are broodless.	Very quick and effective treatment during naturally or planned broodless periods (winter, dearth, swarming, splits, requeening, queen removal/ isolation/caging, brood removal). Can be used as a "clean up" Varroa treatment following the application of a different acaricide where Varroa infestations continue to be problematic.	7329 1-2
	EZ-OX Tablets or Powder / Oxalic Acid dehydrate	Tablets (1g each) or Powder are used in methods similar to Api-Bioxal, but 2g/ brood chamber is allowed (see label).	82% - 99%	same as Api-Bioxal above	Same as Api-Bioxal above	Same as Api-Bioxal above	Same as Api-Bioxal above	Same as Api-Bioxal above	Same as Api-Bioxal above	1017 43-2
	VarroSan / Oxalic Acid dehydrate 18.42%	Extended release fiber strip hung over the brood frames, used when mite infestation is 1%- 2%. Use 1 strip per 2.5 frames of bees (FoB). No more than 4 strips per brood box.	96.8%	42 - 56 days	No restrictions, best if more than 37F and less than 100F.	YES, supers can be left during treatment, but need to be separated from treatment by at least 1 box with no strips.	Doesn't penetrate brood cappings, but with extended treatment period it kills mites emerging from brood cells.	Can be used with packages & small colonies: 1 strip per 2.5 Frames of Bees (FoB).	Extended release method allows for killing generations of varroa mites, which can hide under the brood cappings. Treatment can be used with brood present.	9441 3-3
	Hop Guard 3® / Potassium Salt of Hop Beta Acids (16%)	Cardboard strips are hung between the brood frames. Add 1 strip per 5 frames of bees (FoB), add more strips depending of colony size up to 4 strips per large colony. No more than 2 strips per brood box is allowed.	70% - 85%	up to 28 days (apply every 7 days).	55F - 100F	YES, supers can be left during treatment.	Doesn't penetrate brood cappings, so presence of capped brood lowers the efficacy.	Colonies, newly installed packages and nucs, best if broodless.	When treating colonies during hot/humid weather- fully open hive entrance, remove inner covers (if present), open screened bottom boards (if present), and insert a rim or spacer under the lid. Leave strips in the hive for 14 days and no later than 30 days.	8362 3-2
Synthetic Chemical	Apivar® / Amitraz (3.33%), formamidine insecticide	Strips hung between brood frames so bees can walk on them on both sides. Add 1 strip per 5 frames of bees, add more depending on colony size up to 4 strips per large colony. No more than 2 strips / brood box is allowed (see label). The insecticide is distributed on bees feet & bodies and kills mites by impairing nerve functioning.	95%	42 to 56 days. 42 days is a standard, but can be extended by extra 14 days when brood nest moved away from the treatment. Reposition the strips.	None, best if used in early spring before honey flow or early fall after honey harvest.	NO, supers can be added 2 weeks after completion of the treatment.	Brood can be present as the length of the treatment allows for killing mites from capped brood.	Strong Nucs and colonies of at least 5 frames of bees.	Varroa mite resistance to the treatment was reported. If used- need to be rotated with other treatments. Don't use more than 2 treatments per year. May cause adult bees mortality.	8724 3-1
	Apistan® CheckMite®	Not recommended by CBA (CT Beekeeper Association) due to the known toxicity and environmental consequences (mites developed resistance and chemicals stay in wax).								

Follow the law - use label for details of required PPE, safety requirements and directions to use before treating your bees. Contact your State Apiary Inspection for help.



**Picnic!!**

Remember to bring a side dish for sharing to the picnic on Sunday July 27! Club will be cooking burgers and dogs. We will have raffle items from a variety of retail shops; you will purchase tickets for \$1 and put however many you want in the bag for that item. If yours is the only ticket in that item's bag, you're a winner!! We always have some outstanding raffle items and even more outstanding food and fellowship!

**Sunday July 27 at 1 pm, Alexander Park.**