



The

LCBA B U Z Z



February 2025

Providing Education in Sustainable Beekeeping

POLLEN: Beekeeper says 'achoo!' Bees say 'go little Queenie, go!'

As weather starts (marginally) to improve with spring approaching, the bees start preparing for increased brood production. We will soon be seeing some of the early pollen producing plants start to green up, and the bees look forward to beginning pollen gathering. We often start to supplement our winter feed (fondant, hard candy) with pollen patties. The pollen provides essential proteins which stimulate the queen to start laying more brood. Very little pollen supplement is needed; the colony needs to be able to support increased brood. Remember that the bees currently in your hive are winter bees that have been keeping the hive going since October, and they are nearing the end of their vitigellin stores and won't live much longer. They have been consuming the pollen stored last year, so it helps to supplement with pollen patties. Remembering that it takes 21 days for new workers to emerge, and they don't become foragers for a couple of weeks, it becomes clear why increased egg laying in early spring is essential to colony survival. **ONLY** lift the lid of the hive to feed; do not open the hive to inspect. Remember to sweep dead bees out so the hive entrance doesn't become blocked. Keep feeding sugar blocks or fondant - temperatures need to be 50 day and night to start liquid feed!

Board Members

www.LewisCountyBeekeepers.org

President: Bill Cummings, billdabeekeeper@gmail.com

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

Secretary: Beverly Phoenix, bevpo03@gmail.com

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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



The Board meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Members who would like to address a board meeting may contact the Secretary to have their concerns placed on the agenda.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February: Ramesh Sagili will speak on nutrition and varroa management. We have invited the East Lewis County Beekeeping group, and the Olympia Beekeepers. We hope to fill the room - please plan to attend!

March: Meeting is open at 5:00 to take bee orders. Then, usual social from 6-6:30. Steve Grega will speak on Mason bees, and a swarming video presentation from WASBA will be shown.

April: Dewey Caron will speak on the state hive overwintering survey results then do a brief presentation on spring colony challenges.

Ask A Washington Beekeeper

Ask a Washington Beekeeper is a monthly Zoom program streamed on FB Live. Each session has a Q&A session. You can see past sessions on YouTube - or you can access sessions on the WASBA web page under the 'events' tab. Check it out! There are some excellent past presentations to watch.

• <https://woodsbeeco.com/?s=Rendering>

<https://woodsbeeco.com/product/march-1st-10am-lotion-bar-workshop/>

Want to learn how to render your beeswax? Woods Bee Co. has two classes open on February 8th; one spot at the 9:30 and 4 at the 11:30. Bring up to a gallon of uncleaned wax and learn a simple and ideal method to clean it! You'll leave with some clean wax, and tools to render any you get in the future!

Woods also has a few openings left at a lotion bar workshop on March 1st at 10 am. You'll learn how to make skin friendly lotion bars; you make 6 in class and take the mold with you to make more!

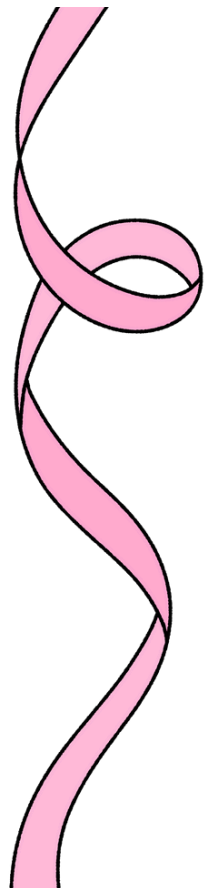
sign up links



WHO'S WHO IN LCBA



In addition to beekeeping, Steve and Barb Grega enjoy having their two grandkids visit. They are outside gardening in their pumpkin patch, vegetable and flower gardens. They have a Christmas tree farm as well. Barb grew flowers for two weddings last summer! Steve tromps around in their timber clearing brush and planting timber trees. Steve worked for PUD with dam management (ask him about this sometime - it's interesting!) Barb was a teacher (lost my notes - I think it was elementary ages?) Steve will be speaking at our March meeting on Mason bees.



In order to not pay tax on bees at Wood's Bee Co., you need to have a farmer's certificate completed and on file with Woods. You can bring it with you when you order your bees at our March meeting, or take it to Woods directly. Copy and paste links below, third is the form to be completed.

Here is the tax guide:

<https://dor.wa.gov/book/export/html/1017>

The key words are Eligible Apiarist. That is where it gets tricky.

It does state that an eligible apiarist grows, raises or produces honey bee products for sale at wholesale.

Here is the Questions and Answers page:

<https://dor.wa.gov/education/industry-guides/beekeepers-tax-guide/questions-and-answers>

Here is the farmer's certificate form:

<https://dor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/27-0036.pdf>



Beekeeper Swap Meet

Saturday, March 8, 2025

10AM-3PM

at Oakview Grange

2715 N. Pearl St. Centralia, WA 98531

Come to our Second Annual Beekeeper Swap Meet where beekeepers are selling their used equipment and gear. You can find equipment you may need for the upcoming season.



Lunch and drinks will be available for purchase.



360-623-3359



bees@woodsbeeco.com

For vendors

BEEKEEPERS SWAP MEET

Do you have beekeeping equipment, protective gear or other items that you don't use anymore? This is a great opportunity to make space and get rid of unused equipment and make a little to invest in the items you do use.



SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025

🕒 10AM-3PM
SET UP 830AM

📍 AT OAKVIEW GRANGE
2715 N. Pearl St.
Centralia, WA 98531

★ LUNCH AND DRINKS
WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE

SIGN UP TODAY!

EMAIL US AT
BEES@WOODSBEECO.COM
OR CALL US AT
360-623-3359



**COST
\$20 FOR A
4 X 6
SPACE**

Two or three of you could go together, get a table (provided at the grange), and sell your unwanted beekeeping supplies! Plan to stay to have a great lunch!

Beekeeping clubs from several surrounding counties have been invited.



The Annual WASBA Pacific Northwest Beekeeping Conference OCT 3-5, 2025

Early Bird Tickets go on sale Saturday, February 1st at 11:00am for \$175 thru July 1st on EventBrite [HERE!](#) You may notice a slight increase in ticket prices this year because we will have Morning Refreshments for both Saturday & Sunday and a Saturday Lunch ALL included in your ticket price (Friday Banquet Tickets will be sold separately)!

Fri. 10/3 – Sun. 10/5, 2025

Embassy Suites by Hilton Seattle North Lynnwood

Early Bird Tickets ON SALE Feb. 1, 2025