The LCBA BUZZ

April 2025

Providing Education in Sustainable Beekeeping

Volunteers are needed for the Spring Youth Fair - we often have students sign up indicating interest in beekeeping and may get our youth scholars from these sign-ups. Please sign up at the April meeting to help, or email Dottie at dotblackstone@gmail.com

The July club picnic is moving to *Sunday 27* at Alexander Park just off highway 6. You'll get reminders.....

We have new members from the beekeeping class who have requested mentors! Please, if you are able, let Naomi know- email naomielliott@live.com Mentors can make a huge difference for beginning beekeepers. Helping them be successful in their first year can help keep them as a member, and you can learn along with the mentee - a win -win!! We hope you will let a director know you'll help at the next meeting, or email Naomi.

www.LewisCountyBeekeepers.org

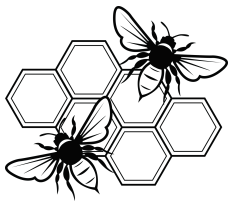
President: Bill Cummings, billdabeekeeper@gmail.com
Vice President:Ross Merker, ross.merker1234@gmail.com
Secretary: Beverly Phoenix, bevpoo3@gmail.com
Treasurer: Theresa Arlotto, theresaar@protonmail.com
Community Outreach Coordinator: Dottie Blackstone dotblackstone@gmail.com
Education Coordinator: Noel Sharp, nsharp928@gmail.com
Mentorship Coordinator: Naomi Elliott, naomielliott@live.com
Apiary Manager:

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

April 9: Regular meeting: Dewey Caron will speak on the Pacific Northwest hive overwintering survey results followed by a brief presentation on spring colony challenges.

Sunday April 13 will be a club apiary visit starting at 1pm. We will: demonstrate sugar roll and alcohol wish tests to count mites; inspect hives; remove Apivar strips; replace old frames, mark any queens we find, feed as needed. More as time allows. Please bring a chair, bee suit and water if you want.



The youngest worker bees make the beeswax, from which workers construct the honeycomb. Eight paired glands on the underside of the abdomen produce wax droplets, which harden into flakes when exposed to air. The workers work the wax flakes in their mouths to soften them into a pliable construction material.

Meet one of our local vendors

Harold Weaver of Beeline came to Washington from Wisconson about 13 years ago, to teach in their church school in the Rochester area. A friend commented about the lack of a source for beekeeping supplies; Harold had an unused shop, and the Beeline franchise became a reality! Harold, his wife and their children all help with the business and beekeeping.

Harold's wife bakes fabulous pies - be sure to pick one up when you pick up your NUC or package bees this spring! Thank you Harold, for all you do in support of LCBA!

March Meeting Highlights

A WASBA video on swarms was presented. Some notes from the video - a swarm is always planned by the bees. Studies now show an average of **70**% of the hive leaves! Swarms captured in May and June are easier to build up, but July swarms can be built up to increase winter survival chances. Swarms generally occur between 10am and 2 pm. 4 things will happen within 10 minutes of the swarm: the hive will be completely silent; bees will begin to spin in a bizarre dance motion; bees will then zigzag across the frames in a frenzy; they will then start beating their wings and pour out of the hive. Without being rescued, a swarm has only about a 16% chance of survival. There are many swarm trap plans available; what works best is one that offers space of around 40 liters - about the size of a deep box. An old black frame in the box and the remainder empty frames, gives the bees an impression of plenty of room. There are several 'bait' suggestions, from swarm commander to lemongrass essential oil. Tom Seeley's book Honeybee Democracy offers a lot of information on swarms.

All About Mason Bees

Member Steve Grega gave a presentation on another great pollinator, the Mason Bee. They are great pollinators for our gardens, and are often the first pollinators to emerge. Temperatures need to be 50 degrees for the Mason bees to start emerging from their cocoons, and have about a 6 week life span. eer He offered a lot of information on 'houses' for the bees, and harvesting cocoons with great pictures of how the cocoons are laid in their tube or nesting hole. Barb Grega also does a lot of the cocoon harvesting. Cocoons were offered for sale, with proceeds going to our youth scholarship fund.

Upcoming Club Business:

Volunteers needed for the Spring Youth Fair May 2-4 at the fairgrounds in Chehalis. Signup sheets will be passed around at the April meeting, or let Dottie know by email if you can help. dotblackstone@gmail.com

The July picnic has moved from Saturday to SUNDAY JULY 27 at Alexander Park.

There will be a club apiary visit SUNDAY APRIL 13 since we aren't sure when bees will arrive. We will demonstrate mite testing, hive inspection, replacing frames, splits, and more. 1:00 at the apiary, 765 North Fork Road. Bring a chair, and a suit.

Take the honey bee loss survey ASAP! link below

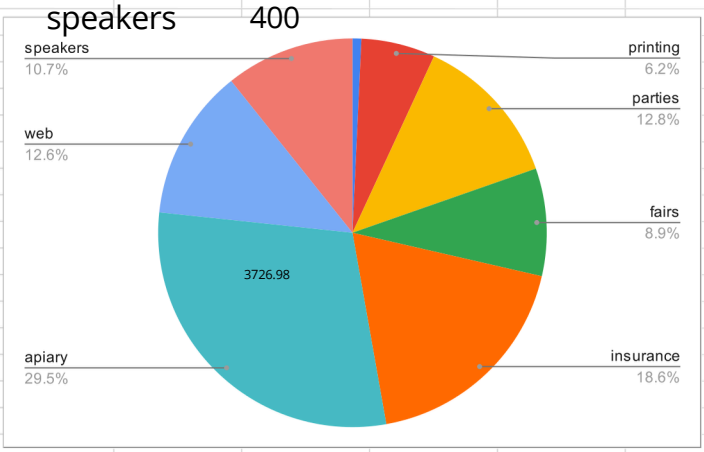
https://pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/

Our youth scholars, Evan (left, pictured with mom Amy and club member Darrell) and Eli (right, pictured with dad Bonnaville) spent time Saturday March 15 at Bill's shop building their woodenware. They were assisted by Paul Longwell, Darrell Dunnagan, and Lauren and Eric Mizar. Lauren reported both scholars were very focused on building boxes and frames. Looking forward to filling those boxes with bees!

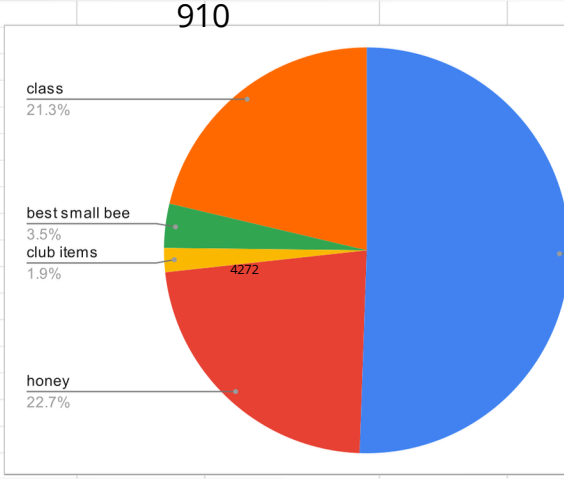
One of the simplest tests you can do to tell the difference between real and fake honey is the glass of water test. Slowly pour a spoonful of honey in a glass of water: if it settles at the bottom, it's real; if it dissolves, it's fake. Of course, if you stir the water, both real and fake honey will eventually dissolve. The reason why this test helps you identify pure, original, unadulterated raw honey is because it relies on a characteristic unique to honey: viscosity.

2024 club financial presentation from Theresa

EXPENSES	
class	27.51
printing	229.3
parties	475.39
fairs	333.39
insurance	694
apiary	1098
web	469.39
speakers	400



INCOME	
memberships	2160
honey	970
club items	82
best small bee club	250
class	910



Theresa presented this financial information to the members showing where income was obtained in 2024, and how funds were spent. The pie graph numbers are hard to read but correspond to the above breakdown. Biggest expenses were insurance and the apiary, followed by parties and the web. Greatest income came from the club membership dues. The honey figure represents two years of sales, honey from 2023 was sold in '24 along with that year's honey. Income is likely to drop this year as we won't have the best small club 'prize' money, and the class taught this year was the WASBA course rather than the LCBA course.

At a top speed of 15-20 miles per hour, honey bees are not the fastest fliers in the bug world. That's because they're built for short trips from flower to flower, not for long-distance hauls. Their tiny wings must flap 12,000 to 15,000 times per minute just to keep their bodies aloft for a flight home to the hive—usually at a clip of about 12 miles per hour—when fully loaded up with pollen.

We will be selecting a committee for nomination of upcoming Director positions whose terms end in December. The committee responsibilities are outlined in the bylaws which can be read on the LCBA web page. Positions coming up for election: President, Community Outreach, Mentor Coordinator, and the Apiary Manager, a position that is currently unfilled. Please consider volunteering to serve in one of the positions; you will have people to help manage whatever tasks are your responsibility. Help keep LCBA thriving !