



The

LCBA BUZZ



May 2025

Providing Education in Sustainable Beekeeping

Spring Youth Fair is May 2-4, please come and show support for beekeeping! We hope to have some youth indicate interest in the scholarships, and adults in the beekeeping class.

**WANT TO LEARN SOME YEAR-ROUND
SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES FOR YOUR
BEEKEEPING?**

**Come hear Chris Hops speak at our May
14 monthly meeting!**

Understanding the sugar we feed our bees

Table sugar - sucrose- white granulated sugar- is the ONLY sugar you should feed bees. Nectar from plants contains sucrose as the principal sugar. Commercial sources of sucrose are sugar cane, and sugar beet. Almost all beet sugar is GMO, while virtually all cane sugar is not. Sucrose is useless to bees. In order for them to use it, it has to be broken down to glucose and fructose. If a plant is converting sucrose, the enzyme needed is called invertase. If an animal (BEE) is converting sucrose to fructose and glucose, the enzyme is called **sucrase**. Foraging bees can add the enzyme to nectar as they harvest it from the plant. Fructose is used for brain function, muscle cell energy, and body cell functions. Fructose is an energy source. From Bee Culture magazine article by Ann Harman





LOTS OF ACTIVITY!



WHAT ARE THEY DOING??

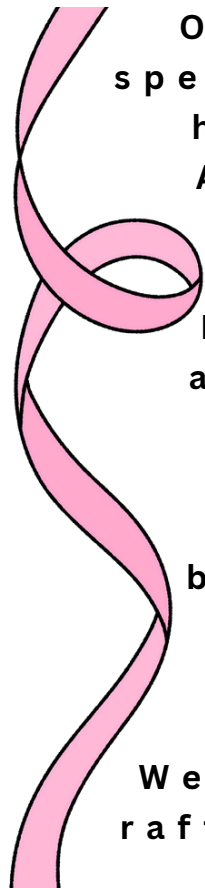


Quite a few people attended the first apiary workshop. We did two splits, pulling frames of brood from several different hives. Two hives supplied queens for the splits, and new queens were placed in those hives. 5 of 6 hives now have marked queens which will help with preparing the observation hive for the fairs! The long hive was moved into an 8 frame set up; it was a fairly week hive complete with a lot of ants, and a mouse nest (ugh). While a bit chaotic at times (we learned a lesson from that!) those beekeepers present indicated they gained a lot of knowledge from the workshop. There is still a fair amount of work to do (exchanging old wax/propolis boxes with clean boxes, getting rid of old frames/foundation). Another workshop is planned for May 18, details will be emailed and announced!

**A HUGE thank you to Darrell Dunnagan,
Dean Morton, Gottfried Fritz, Ross Merker
and Theresa Arlotto for helping new
beekeepers at the first 2025 apiary
workshop! Bev**

**A committee of 3 has been formed to manage our club
apiary, with a number of member volunteers to help.
Each month a leader will organize any apiary visits
needed for the month, and plan and manage the
monthly apiary club workshop. If you would like to
volunteer let Bev, Theresa or Ross know. You will be
notified as far in advance as possible of a work day,
and come if you are able. More hands make a
shorter work day!**

UPCOMING SPEAKERS



**Our May 14 speaker will be Chris Hops, who will
speak on sustainability in beekeeping. He will cover
how he incorporates sustainability year round.
Always an interesting speaker with a wealth of
knowledge to share.**

**In June we will hear from Charlie VandenHuevel,
a beekeeper from Oregon who will speak on bee
nutrition and mite management.**

**July 9th will feature Dawn Beck, a Washington
beekeeper who will speak on fat bodies. This is
important information to understand
winter bees.**

**We will have our annual festive picnic with lots of
raffle items, and great food. This will be July 27th.**



HONEY ENTERING INFORMATION FOR THE SWW FAIR

There will be information on entering honey in the fair in the next several newsletters to help prepare for your August entry. We will have QUEENLINE 1lb. jars available at each meeting for you to pick one up if you want to enter. There are also containers for a comb honey entrance. You will enter honey in either: 1. comb honey with sample 2. light amber 3. amber 4. dark amber. Use the color guide below to decide your color. Any honey lighter than the light amber (white, for example) will go in the light amber category.

We will have a lot more information coming. How to enter, when to bring your jar in, judging scorecards, how to fill your jar, etc. One of our members, Cody Warren, will do a brief presentation on judging at our June membership meeting.

HONEY COLOR GUIDE



SPLITS IN M A Y

If bees are crowded in your two deeps, consider doing a split (dividing one hive into two). You will need a complete hive box set up or find someone to take your split. If you have difficulty finding your queen, it is a fairly simple process to split without finding her, as long as you have a queen excluder. I found these two videos most helpful

<https://youtu.be/-HlxryJo2PE>

<https://youtu.be/-vFYqZ7Ojwk>

Randy Oliver and Bob Binnie videos on how to split without finding the queen

CLUB APIARY NEEDS A SWARM

If anyone has a swarm they don't want, please text (preferred) or call Bev at 360-561-9424. We need a swarm to populate the top bar hive at the apiary. Ideal if you can catch it for me, I'll come pick up. Or you are welcome to take it out to hive it if you prefer

Apparel is finally here, get yours!

Available in
3 colors,
size S, M, L,
XL and 2XL



T shirts \$15

Hoodies \$25

Caps \$15

Check or correct
change is
appreciated



T shirts have small logo on
front, large on back.
Hoodies only have large logo
on back. Hoodies and shirts
are available in these three
colors, in a range of sizes.
Caps are in similar colors as
the apparel



Cap also available
in royal or black,
one size fits most