



The L C B A B U Z Z



November 2025

Providing Education in Sustainable Beekeeping

Monthly meetings at 6 pm in room 109 of Washington Hall, Centralia College; exceptions will be published in advance. Club apiary is at 765 North Fork Road

November activities and events



Wednesday November 12 we will have Chase Bethard from Fungi Perfecti speaking about benefits of fungi in beekeeping. Sure to be a fascinating talk!

Upcoming

Wednesday January 14: Holiday Party!! Mark your calendar now! Borst Park kitchen #1 **Mead making class beginning at 5:30, dinner following!** There will be awesome raffle items; this year we are trialing having both \$1 and \$5 tickets, high dollar items will be \$5 tickets. Bring plenty of cash!

Wednesday, February 11; Jeff Ott, of the highly acclaimed Beekeeping Today podcast will speak on technology in the apiary

NO DECEMBER monthly meeting

December 6 at 10 am, tentative apiary workshop to make sugar bricks, clean propolis off any boxes needing cleaned, assess equipment, OA vaporize, prepare for spring! Workshop will be confirmed in December 1st newsletter.

WASBA Conference Highlights from Bev and Theresa

Dr. Priya Basu from WSU spoke on nutrition - the first line of defense for bees. Poor nutrition is one of the most important bee stressors. It affects susceptibility to everything else. Nutrition source needs to be diverse, staggered and abundant.

Working on a WA pollen atlas, collecting pollen, studying pollen from 100 plants every 3-4 years. (See articl on next page about participating in pollen collection)

Dr. Dewey Caron spoke about the PNW winter loss survey. Lewis Co. had the highest # of respondents in the state! State had a 34% overwinter colony loss rate compared to 62% for US commercial beekeepers. Use of ApiLifeVar showed consistently low losses year after year. Amitraz (Apivar) resistance is a likely cause of colony losses.

Dr. Rogan Tokach spoke about the tropilaelaps mite. He studied the mites in Thailand, where they are seen in much of that region - Vietnam, China - warmer climates. They did find mites in two areas in Russia, uncertain why they were found there (somewhat difficult to do research there). The mites don't have a phoretic phase, they go directly to new brood. With high infestation rates, they will travel on adult bees outside the hive. They reproduce faster than varroa; the female lives about 50 days in the hive. Formic has shown some benefit, and brood breaks work well.

Wendy Wheeler spoke on pesticides - key takeaway was to read your labels! Pesticides in stored pollen are fed to larvae, so minimal or mindful pesticide use is important.

Dr. Lewis Bartlett spoke about the yellow legged hornet which has been found in Georgia, and eradication efforts. Not likely to be in WA as it prefers warmer climates. It is invasive in Korea, Japan and parts of Europe. He also spoke about small hive beetles; they are working on a new treatment for small hive beetles and find chlorantraniliprole in pollen patties is effective. Possible to get the beetles here from a nuc shipped from warmer areas. They nest in the ground, so our region may be too cold for them to reproduce. They can turn a hive into a gross slimy mess.

Dr. Stephen Pernal spoke about a new varroa treatment they are developing. They are seeing high rates of amitraz resistance where he's studying in southern Alberta. The compound they're studying is similar to thymol, finding exposure after about 5 hours is effective. They are currently working on dose, and delivery method. So far they are finding negligible residue in honey, and minimal adverse effects for humans. Hopefully can have a product to market in 5-6 years.

WSU graduate student Molly Quade spoke about research she is doing to identify fungi that will kill varroa; graduate student Taydin Macon is researching using environmental DNA for honeybee pest and pathogen detection. Both Molly and Taydin received scholarships from WASBA

If you haven't attended a WASBA PNW beekeeping conference, it is a fabulous learning and networking experience! Plan to go October 2026!

Please consider participating in this pollen collection study! It would be great to provide pollen samples from all parts of the county as there are so many different varieties in various parts of the county! If you don't have a pollen trap, one will be provided. Let's all participate! And, your pollen samples can be dropped off at Wood's Bees!



CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS for the Washington Pollen Atlas!

The Washington Pollen Atlas is a part of the National Pollen Phenology Wheel that Dr. Priya Chakrabarti Basu created. The goal of this program is to create a searchable database with information about floral nutritional profiles, and what is in bloom and when! Many thanks to the Washington State Department of Agriculture Apiary Advisory Board for funding the Washington Pollen Atlas initiative.

> What does it mean to be a volunteer?

Install a pollen trap on your hive(s)

Leave it trap on for 48 hours once a month

After 48 hours empty trap into labeled bag

Store pollen in freezer

Mail in, deliver, or be available for sample pick up every 2 to 3 months

If you are not a beekeeper but are still interested in participating, you can still help by hand-collecting pollen using various techniques. Please reach out to us!

> What happens to the pollen I send in?

The pollen is weighed and color sorted using Pantone color matching, then pollen is subject to nutritional analyses, metabarcoding, and acetolysis and imaging. Data about pollen color, flower origin, structure, protein and lipid content, and region collected is being compiled into a database that will become publicly searchable.

To sign up, please fill out this form linked here: <http://bit.ly/4h6Cpdi>

If you have more questions, please email Bri Price at briana.price@wsu.edu

Some useful and popular web pages or resources

Beekeeping Today podcast- Jeff Ott hosts a variety of people on a variety of topics related to beekeeping (#1 bee podcast in US) (and our upcoming February speaker)

Bob Binnie's YouTube channel

Alan Wood's Coffee with a Beekeeper 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month by zoom woodsbeeco.com/coffee-with-a-beekeeper/

a great place to ask your beekeeping questions!

<https://beewise.ag/home> Works with ai and robotics for better hive management

WASBA YouTube channel for Ask A Washington Beekeeper monthly topics - can see past episodes or watch the current episode 3rd Thursday of each month

bees.wsu.edu Website with all sorts of bee related research and information

pnwhoneybeesurvey.com Read about statistics gathered from annual surveys (and be sure to participate in the 2026 survey!)

Fact check: thank you Paul Longwell! Paul was curious about the comment from our September speaker regarding drones being 'genetically programmed' to generate workers that tended to do a particular job - either be foragers, or scout bees. for example. Paul did some research and found this isn't the fact. They are haploid males that develop from unfertilized eggs, carrying only one set of chromosomes from the queen. Their primary role is to mate with queen bees, which allows them to contribute their genetic material to future generations. This process is crucial for maintaining genetic diversity within the colony, as drones can mate with multiple queens, resulting in offspring that may inherit traits from different fathers.

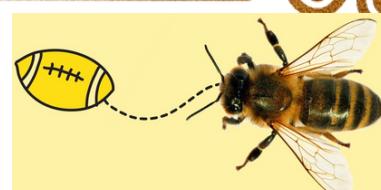
Are you interested in learning some ways to use your beeswax? Wood's Bees has upcoming workshops - sign up on their website. Classes are \$25 and held at their house.



There are a few openings for Saturday November 1 candle making at 2pm. You'll make a candle in a reuseable silicone mold plus one in a metal tin. Call Bev Woods at 360-623-3359 or email bees@woodsbeeco.com to register.

What is small, black and yellow, and drops things?

A fumblebee



NEW!! Silent auction for higher price items

In the past we have sold raffle tickets for everything - so it was possible to win a \$2-300 item for \$1. With slowly decreasing membership numbers, we are trying different ways to maintain sufficient bank funds to pay for speakers, youth scholarships, insurance, PO Box, etc. We are going to try a silent auction for a couple of 'big ticket' items to see how it goes. If you are interested in placing a bid on either of these items, email me at bevp003@gmail.com (the 003 are numbers) or come to the November or January meetings to place your bid in person. If you email a bid, I will let any subsequent email bidders know the amount they need to exceed. There will be a minimum starting bid, with subsequent bids in \$5 increments (so first bid on either of these two items would be \$105). Email me if you have questions! ***Bidding on these 2 items will end at the end of the January holiday party so if you want an item you'd need to come to the party to see if anyone bids over you.***



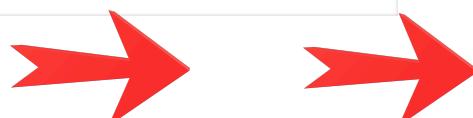
On Amazon, new for \$225. This is the camera we used before we purchased the OWL for our meetings. In excellent condition, has all the parts and pieces.

Starting bid \$100.00

Zoom Certified, NexiGo N990 (Gen 2) 4K PTZ Webcam, Video Conference Camera System with 5X Digital Zoom,...

Zoom Certified, NexiGo N990 (Gen 2) 4K PTZ Webcam, Video Conference Camera System with 5X Digital Zoom, Sony_Starvis Sensor, Position Preset, Dual Stereo Mics, 3.5mm Audio Jacks for External Mics :...

[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Two frame manual extractor, new in box. Perfect for the small apiary! This extractor sells at Tractor Supply for \$250. Stainless steel, fits either deep or medium frames.

Starting bid \$100.00



Happy bidding!