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April 2016 LCBA Newsletter

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 - **Also - for newbees - a "dry demo" of how to hive your new package bees when they arrive.**
- **April 29 – May 2: Spring Youth Fair**
- **May 12 – LCBA Monthly Meeting – How Mushrooms Can Help Bees**

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Bees in the News is on vacation this month – we'll have an expanded edition in our May newsletter.

Questions? Suggestions? Resources you'd like to share, stories you'd like to tell?

Please contact LCBA Secretary Susanne Weil: susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com or call 360 880 8130.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PACKAGE BEE PICKUP ~ Rains in California have delayed bee deliveries. The latest news we have suggests that April 21 will be the pickup date at Beeline Apiaries. When we have a firm pickup date, all those who ordered bees will receive an email with details!

April 14: LCBA Monthly Meeting: Diagnostics – What Killed My Bees Over Winter? Also, How To Hive Package Bees – Tips for Newbees

When: 6 – 8:45 p.m.: Social Time, 6 to 6:30 p.m.; 6:30-7:30, presentation; 7:30, break; 7:45-8:45 business meeting & Beekeeping Q&A.

Where: 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College, 701 W. Walnut St., Centralia WA 98531

Topics: LCBA board members will give a "dry demo" on a "kinder, gentler" method for hiving new package bees & lead a discussion of post-overwintering diagnostics: if some of your bees didn't make it through winter, why? We'll review BeeInformed's slideshow on diagnosis. Please bring your questions - & if you have photos, please bring them on a thumbdrive so we can display them!

Please Note: since Chehalis has repealed its ordinance prohibiting urban beekeeping, we've changed topic. Thanks to Raine Lee Ritalto for her graciousness about scheduling.

Also: Short business meeting & "beekeeping Q&A." Questions? Contact Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com or call 360 880 8130.



Above left, ["A hive frame full of dead bees because of starvation due to a particularly long and cold winter time \(2005-2006\)."](#) Emmanuel Boutet, own work. License, [CC BY-SA 3.0](#).

Above right, package bees recruiting into a hive box after the queen was inserted. We'll show a BETTER method at our April meeting that shelters the package safely inside a removable lower hive box! (photo, Susanne Weil)

April 23: Seedpod Farm Spring Festival

Seedpod Farm Spring Festival

When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Where:** 2330 Howard Ave, Centralia WA 98531

What: LCBA will have a table at this family-friendly spring fair in the Seedpod Farm Orchard, hosted by LCBA members Julie & Adam Gullett. Meet farmers, artisans, crafters, & sample their wares; goods for sale. For more information, visit www.seedpodfarm.com, call 360 807 4693360 807 4693, or email info@seedpodfarm.com. Above, last spring's fair at Seedpod Farm.



April 30 – May 1: Spring Youth Fair

More news soon – call for volunteers to staff LCBA's booth at our April 14 meeting.



May 12: LCBA Monthly Meeting ~ Mushrooms & Bee Health

When: 6 – 8:45 p.m.: Social Time, 6 to 6:30 p.m.; 6:30-7:30, presentation; 7:30, break; 7:45-8:45 business meeting & Beekeeping Q&A.

Where: 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College, 701 W. Walnut St., Centralia WA

Topic: Fungi Perfecti's Bee Friendly Research Campaign: *Mycological approaches to increase longevity, reduce mite and viral burden, and improve immunity of honey bees (more info next page!)* **May 12 Speaker: Blake Westman.** Quite a few LCBA members have asked for a speaker on the WSU/Fungi Perfecti mushroom/bee health research! Blake is a Production

Manager at Fungi Perfecti & one of Paul Stamet's staff involved with WSU's work. **Also:** Short business meeting & "beekeeping Q&A.



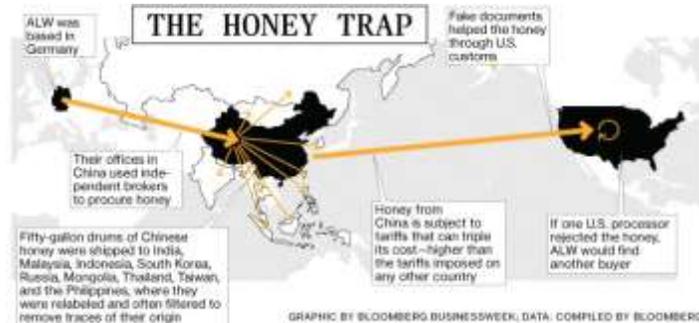
Above left, [Honey in comb \("Honigwabe"\)](#) by Waugsberg –Own Work. Licensed under [CC BY-SA 3.0](#) via Wikimedia Commons. Middle, ["Filtering of Honey."](#) by Luc Viatour (www.Lucnix.be), Licensed under [CC BY-SA 3.0](#) Right, ["Plastic bear of Illinois Honey."](#) by ParentingPatch via Wikimedia Commons, Licensed under [CC BY-SA 3.0](#) .

June 9: LCBA Monthly Meeting: Honey Judging Criteria; Adulterated Honey & How to Avoid It; Tales from the International Honey Laundering Trade

When: 6 – 8:45 p.m.: Social Time, 6 to 6:30 p.m.; 6:30-7:30, presentation; 7:30, break; 7:45-8:45 business meeting & Beekeeping Q&A.

Where: 103 Washington Hall, Centralia College, 701 W. Walnut St., Centralia WA

Topic: Honey season is coming, & this meeting will approach it from a couple of different angles. Education Coordinator Peter Glover will explain how LCBA has adapted the Eastern Apiculture Association's honey judging criteria and give tips on how to prepare honey for entry in this August's Southwest Washington Fair. Journeyman candidate Terrie Phillips will explain how honey becomes adulterated and things you can do to avoid this, along with tales of the international honey laundering trade.



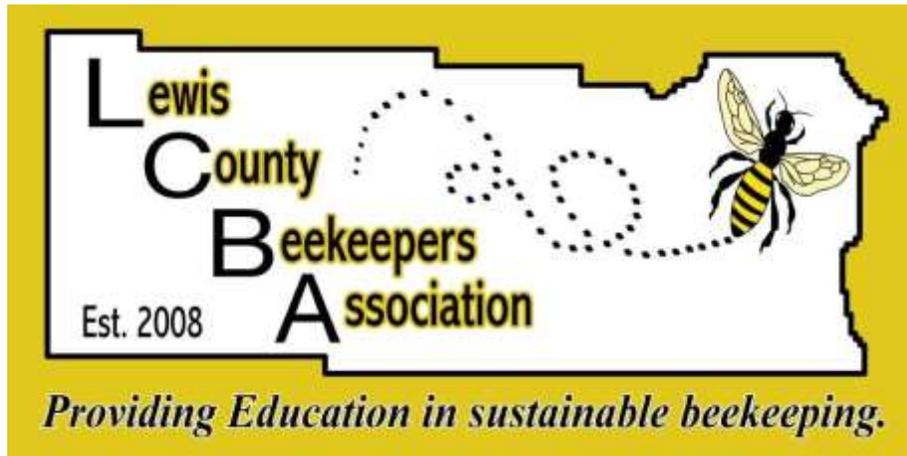
Above, *World Map of Honey Trafficking (Bloomberg.com)*

Notes from LCBA's March 10: LCBA Monthly Meeting

Speakers: *Dan Maughan: Hiving Package Bees, Dos & Don'ts, + "Long Langstroth Hive"*

Rick Battin: Foundationless Beekeeping, a natural alternative

Herb Zile: using the oxalic acid fume vaporizer for Varroa mite control



Above, LCBA's new banner ~ Sharette Giese's original LCBA design, now framed with Kevin Reichert's concise rendition of our mission statement. Thanks to Copy Depot/Precision Printing for a great job!

March Monthly Meeting Notes

New LCBA Banner & Business Cards: President Kevin Reichert opened our meeting by displaying LCBA's brand new banner (see above) and business cards. Our old banner has the Lewis County Extension logo on it, and since LCBA is not part of Extension, it was time to remove that; also, Kevin had the idea to include a line summarizing LCBA's mission statement. Copy Depot/Precision Printing produced this for us at their sale price. We also needed new business cards that reflected our monthly meetings are now on Thursdays: Staples' special enabled us to get 500 new cards for \$16 and change. Interested members were encouraged to take cards to share.

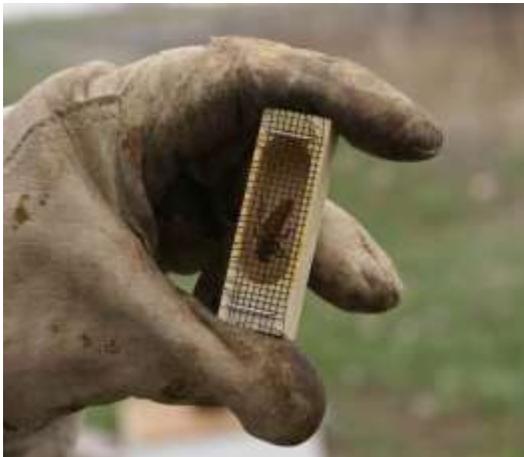
Bee Order News! California's topsy-turvy weather set back queen-rearing & split-making, so Harold regretfully reported that we won't have the package bees on April 12. The board will send an email with updated information as soon as it is available. *[Post-meeting note: as of this newsletter, it looks like April 21 will be the pickup date. Pickups will be at Beeline Apiaries. Please watch your email for updates.]*

Hiving Package Bees, Dos & Don'ts - Dan Maughan

Dan is LCBA's Community Outreach Coordinator, and he hosted package bee pickup last year. Some of the things he observed led him to put this presentation together. He noted that we emphasize what to do when we get our package bees home, but not so much how to get them there without harming them.

What bees need for safe transport: First, package bees are transported commercially in darkness, a cool environment, and under air circulation (air conditioning or a fan). Of these, a cool environment is most critical. In nature, bees can cool themselves with water. However, they'll do better if we help them. Dadant's *The Hive and Honey Bee* (p. 188) states: "given plenty of water, a strong colony can cool a hive to normal temperatures when outside temperatures are as high as 160° F." They put hives on basalt lava flows in Hawaii to find this out. However, package and nuc bees are caged and have no access to water to cool themselves.

Don't cook your bees! When bees get too hot the last thing they do before they die is vomit and defecate all over each other. This creates a glossy, gooey, stinky mess of dead bees. If your bees stink and are glossy wet in appearance, and have been hot; they are dying. Dan shared the story of Bear the dog: Bear, an aggressive dog, once got trapped in hot car, the inside of which he plastered with "hot farts." Bear lived; however, packaged bees would not survive those circumstances.



Left, "[Caged queen,](#)" from [lofthouse.com](#); right, "[A Car Full of Bees,](#)" by Tori Muir, San Mateo Bee Guild

Don't put package bees in the trunk of your car – and don't stash your extra queens on the dash! Packages and nucs do not belong in the trunk of a car- they can die. Queens do not belong on the dashboard of a car- they can die. Put them in a small ventilated box on the seat or floor. A damp paper towel nearby can help control humidity. Packages and nucs must be protected from the wind, sun, and elements when placed in the back of a truck.

A good rule of thumb: What's comfortable for you in your car is probably comfortable for bees. Consider placing the packages or nucs on the back seat, or on the passenger side floor. Dan took home bees two years ago, driving 15 miles: he had placed his bees inside a big wooden box with the top cracked open, but the bees still were hot when he got them home. It's OK if a few bees are hitchhiking on the outside of a package box: they will "hang with the bees" inside.

Transporting Queens: If you have ordered extra queens, remember: queens are particularly vulnerable during transport because they do not have a colony to maintain proper temperature for them. Therefore, we need to keep them warm, but not hot. It helps to keep their queen cage in a humid location, out of direct sunlight. It helps to feed queens an occasional drop of water and/or light syrup with your finger. Do not unnecessarily stress and disturb them. Kevin noted that a

safe place to put the queen cage is in your shirt pocket. Then he puts them in a utility room and covers the cage with a towel until he hives them.

Hive Your Queens Soon: Be sure to get queens into a colony no later than 72 hours after pickup. For details on how to do the hiving, see LCBA's website: http://lewiscountybeekeepers.org/mentorsworkshopsclasses/hiving_package_bees We'll also show a "dry demo" of how to hive bees at our April 14 meeting.

Feed Your Package Bees Right After Hiving: Remember, these package bees have no stores of honey and bee bread. Consider feeding weekly 1:1 sugar water: this encourages comb drawing. A package may eat as much as a gallon a week. A pollen substitute patty will help build brood quickly, too. Finally, check your hived bees regularly (inspecting ten days to two weeks): fed bees multiply quickly, so monitor them regularly to add that second brood box and prevent swarming. [For details on feeding options, visit LCBA's website: http://lewiscountybeekeepers.org/mentorsworkshopsclasses/feeding_bees]

The "Long Langstroth" hive box - Dan Maughan



Above left, Brushy Mountain's "Long Langstroth." Got \$350? It can be yours! OR you can DIY, like LCBA's Community Outreach Coordinator, Dan Maughan, did. Dan's cedar long box is above, right. . . .

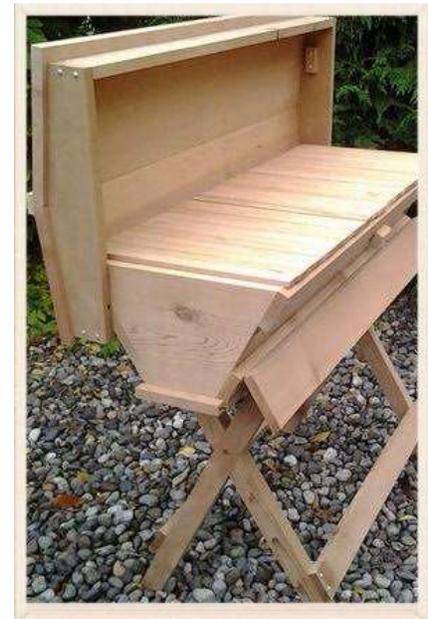
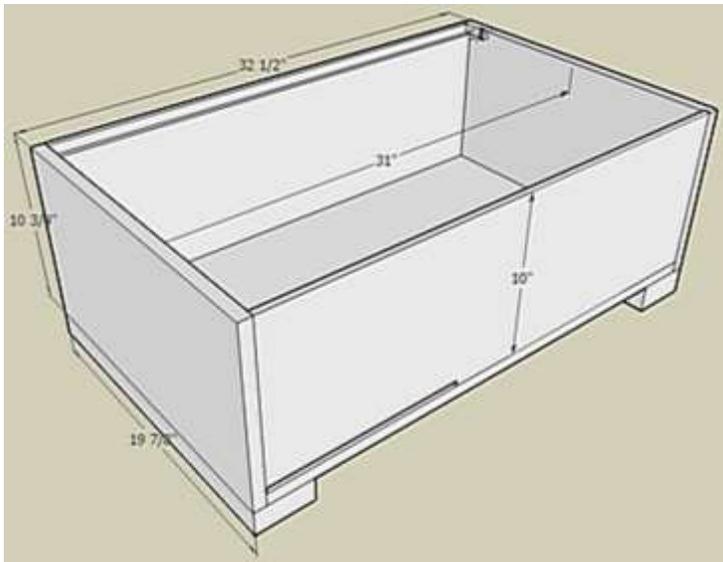
What Is a Long Hive? Dan displayed his "Long Langstroth Hive" (see photo, above right). Dan asked Terrie Phillips, who presented at our January 2016 meeting about her first year with top bar beekeeping, what she likes about top bar hives; Terrie said that the main thing for her is not having to lift heavy boxes, though she is also interested in comb honey and harvesting wax.. Also, many top bar hives have hinged lids; her next one will, too. Dan thinks that some of the "long Langstroth" features make sense if you want to do top bar hive beekeeping.

Dan's Design: See Dan's design, on the next page, with dimensions. His main pieces are the cedar box and bottom board, and the cypress telescoping cover. He placed the box on a cedar screened bottom board. The deep is 33"wide, not 32.5" as displayed in previous diagram: he lengthened the design to basically 33 inches so that if he adds honey supers on top, they would

not stick out beyond the dimensions of the long hive box. The box is compatible with Langstroth frames, feeders, supers, and most other hardware. The top of the box is re-enforced from 3/8 to 1&1/8 thickness. This allows the beekeeper to pry a frame out without breaking the frame support. Similar to a top bar hive, the long hive uses follower boards. It can use both top bar and Langstroth frames, and it is “low profile.” He has handholds on the ends, as well. For his telescoping cover, Dan went to Tin Man Supply and got the measurement for the flashing. He then cut it the length he needed, then bent the ends over.

Design Challenges: Dan noted that a key design challenge was planning for winter feeding because the with a top bar frame design, where each frame top touches its neighbor frame top, you can’t put candy on top of the frames, as you can with a standard Langstroth. Terrie noted that she likes Boardman feeders, so she adapted a little slot in the bottom in which she could insert a Boardman. Dan asked, “do you wish you could put a feeder inside the hive?” His design allows for that, as you move the follower bars out. He made it so that you could use either the standard top bars or use Langstroth frames. Gottfried noted that one benefit of top bar hive beekeeping is that you can disrupt the bees less by working in a small space, not having to remove frames. Gottfried pointed out you could do the same with Langstroth frames in this design.

Supering: The other key challenge was supering for honey production. Dan noted that he could put a standard Langstroth super on top of the long box, either one in the middle, or two side by side, with Langstroth lids on top.



Above left, Dan’s Langstroth-compatible Long Hive design; right, a cedar top bar hive which Richelle Johnson found on Craigslist (under “olympic peninsula, Bee Hive Cedar Top Bar-\$275 (Sequim)”

Dan has made four of these hives. He reported that each takes about two days to make; he has about \$150 in materials in each. He thinks he’ll give one away – as a drawing item at LCBA’s summer potluck fundraiser for next year’s Youth Scholarship fund - and sell the last two.

Foundationless Beekeeping: a Natural Alternative to Traditional Langstroth Beekeeping - Rick Battin

Why Foundationless? LCBA Treasurer Rick Battin showed photos of foundationless frames of drawn comb, noting how much smaller the cell sizes are than in comb drawn from standard plastic foundation. Rick explained that he likes this small comb size because it may help in Varroa mite control. Mites evolved with the Asian honey bee, a smaller bee that builds smaller cells. Our European bees have bigger cells, so mites can reproduce more, and more quickly – and plastic foundation may compound this problem. For Rick and many natural beekeepers, the idea of having the bees draw their own comb in foundationless frames makes sense.



Above, foundationless drawn comb (photo from 9-14-14 workshop at Rick's apiary)

The Cell Size/Volume Equation – And Its Relationship to Mite Infestations: Rick showed a cell width/cell volume chart from *ABC XYZ*: as cell size increases 10%, volume increases 157%, and this is a big advantage to the mite. Foundation came out in the 1870s: makers started stamping the foundation, and during the “green revolution” of the 40s and 50s, this helped make bees larger, to carry more honey and pollen. As they enlarged the cell size stamp on foundation, the bees got bigger, too. The other interesting factor in this volume equation is that if all the cells are large, you have fewer cells on any given frame, so fewer bees, but larger bees. This makes Rick wonder whether maybe the natural state of a honey bee colony would be to have more, but smaller, individuals.

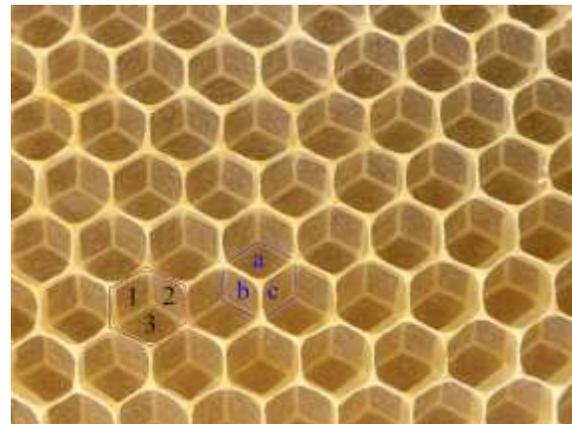
Shorter capping times: Rick noted that with foundationless, there is up to 8 hours’ shorter capping time: this cuts in half the number of mites infesting brood cells. There is less chance for the mite to jump in. Varroa favor our drone cells because those cells are larger: the drone larvae take up to 24 to 36 hours more to develop before the nurses can cap them. In a drone cell, therefore, the mites can reproduce 3 to 4 times more than in worker brood. This is why drone trapping is done. Kevin Phillips asked how effective those green drone frames are: Rick thinks that they are a good way to test for drones. If he has many, he freezes them and kills them, but he is not killing productive members of his colonies because the workers are not affected.

How Bees Build in Foundationless Frames: Rick showed photos of completely drawn and incomplete frames. In the one that was completely drawn, Rick had put in wires to help the bees anchor the comb.



Above, foundationless frames in Rick's apiary (photos from 9-14-14 fall management workshop)

Below left, honey bees festooning, a.k.a. chaining ("Quellenangabe," by Maja Dumat; license, [CC BY 2.0](#)); below, right, honey comb hexagons ("Bienenwabe im Bau 51a" by Waugsberg - Own work. Licensed under [CC BY-SA 3.0](#) via Wikimedia Commons)



The photograph above shows honey bees festooning, also called “chaining.” Rick explained that when bees are chaining, they are taking measurements between lobes of comb. They match comb together pretty well: sometimes there is a gap, but usually, that is small. Rick noted that the bees draw out comb quickly: he found that a frame could be almost fully drawn in about 2.5 weeks. He had wondered, at first, if they could draw fast enough to take full advantage of the nectar flow, so he had intended to checkerboard with foundation: however, he found that they drew out foundationless comb much fatter, very quickly, and used foundation as a walkway only. In the photo of the fully drawn frame, above, note that the bees did not close all the communication holes, which may benefit them as the winter cluster moves through to eat their food supplies.

Rick showed a great photo with light shining through comb: when lights shine through, you can see what is going on. The light won't shine through pollen. Also, note the structure of hexagons: they are built in an offset construction to maximize packing of cells into comb. Rick found that the bees also worked around the staples in the frame.

Uses for Drone Brood: Cody Warren noted that in his foundationless beekeeping, he takes a sheet of foundation and cuts it so that he has pieces: they will draw drone cells on the side on this foundation, and he then cuts drone cells out and feeds them to his neighbor's chickens.

How To Encourage Bees To Draw Foundationless Comb? Another member asked Rick what he uses to get the bees to start drawing. Rick said that he really doesn't do anything special, just that wooden v that runs below the top frame. Rick noted, though, that some say putting a small strip of beeswax in helps encourage them to get started. Some use popsicle sticks. Rick also noted that you can checkerboard to encourage building out. Rick showed a great photo of his "awkward" frames that the bees fitted together with queen cups, like a little queen gallery. When we do cut outs, Rick observed, we pin comb, and that too is foundationless beekeeping.

Comb stability? How long does unsupported comb take to get stable? Rick answered that this depends on the time of year and the temperature; Gottfried noted that once there is brood in cells, the comb becomes more stable. For those who want more structure, yet to have a more natural approach than plastic foundation entails, you can buy or make wire mesh sheets to set the comb in, and then these frames can be used in a spinner to extract honey. This story made Rick recall how, at the holidays, he showed his nieces his comb cutter and let them cut comb honey, thinking they would take their comb chunks to school for show and tell. Before he knew it, his sister was hollering, "RICK!" – and he realized that the nieces had the honey all over their faces. His sister moaned, "We're eating in half an hour" – but Rick got to be the coolest uncle ever.



Oxalic Acid Fume Vaporizers for Varroa Control - Herb Zile

For more information about oxalic acid fume vaporizers, see the December 2015 edition of the newsletter for Mike Radford's November 2015 talk. Above, left, Herb with one of his vaporizers at LCBA's December 2015 holiday potluck; right, closeup of vaporizer (photo by Mike Radford)

LCBA member Herb Zile, who has made his own oxalic acid fume vaporizer, showed us a Youtube video on how to make one: "Homemade oxalic acid vaporizer \$50," by Michael Cifranic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSD5onayLo> [FYI, this is the URL for Michael Cifranic's most recent update of this video.]

How Vaporizers Work: Herb pointed out good information in the Cifranic video about the recent legalization of oxalic acid for use treating bees for Varroa mites. Vaporizers heat the oxalic acid crystals so that they vaporize, then distribute the gas throughout hive – and, best of all, it kills Varroa mites but does not harm bees. But vaporizers are expensive, so the gentleman in the video made his own for about \$20 per oxidizer. He built one AC and one DC. They have electric where their hives are, but he would rather use batteries, much more convenient if your hives are far from your house. The video then explains how to twist and bend the heating element of a 12 volt immersion heater. Next, he took a ¾ inch cap for a copper pipe and slowly pounded it down to fit neatly into the hole in the heating element; he then sands it down and pounds it in. There is a LOT of information in this 12 minute video!

Herb discussed the time between applications: he followed these directions and got a great mite drop. You must seal off the hive for 2 minutes, so it is important to put a board under your bottom board, or insert a slider board, as well as to block the hive entrance and any upper entrance. Gottfried commented that he puts an inner cover below the hive to help keep vapors in: Gottfried takes off the inner cover and turns it so that there's an inch of space below the bottom box, the frames, then uses the "Red Green method - duct tape" over the hole in the inner cover, and sets hive on top of it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQp9pdAOjdo>

Safety concerns: Herb emphasized that a respirator is "a must" because the oxalic acid vapor is toxic to people. Herb showed his respirator, which featured not only mouth and nose, but also total eye coverage. Safety first! Herb said he borrowed the respirator from a neighbor. Steve Howard wondered if Harbor Freight might have them; Rick suggested Home Depot. Paint stores have them.

Plans & Actual Costs: Herb had planned to make his vaporizer for 5 dollars, but ended up spending about \$50: still, this is cheaper than from vendors. Herb joked that "I can get more redneck than the guy in the video," referring to his cross bar for insertion into his hives. Kevin asked Herb about the total cost: Herb said that he spent \$110 to make both his vaporizers. Oxalic acid is cheap - it is wood bleach, which you can get in hardware stores. However, the legally licensed produce is sold by Brush Mountain, with the label for beekeeping and information about application rates for a beehive.

March Business Meeting Notes

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Rick Battin reported that LCBA's balance, prior to tonight's bee orders, was \$ 6,326.23; our Youth Scholarship fund has \$1,295.04. Rick added that some members have not picked up their nametags, so please get them! New members will have their nametags probably by the May meeting. Rick explained that he puts in nametag orders when we have enough new members to hit the price break at Alderson's.

Tax Reports: Now that we are a 501(c)3 organization, we need to file a Form 990N with the I.R.S. by May 15. We will not owe the IRS money.

Liability issues: hold harmless agreement / counsel, D&O Insurance, & possible dues increase for 2017: President Kevin Reichert found that the hold harmless agreement that we've used for the past two years had never been reviewed by counsel, so his own attorneys are looking at it now to see if it is ok or whether any changes are needed.

Why LCBA Needs Insurance: Most of LCBA's events are not covered by insurance – we have only gotten insurance for our holiday potlucks, because the Grange requires it. However, we take an observation hive to the Southwest Washington Fair and the Spring Youth Fair. We have guests as well as members at our hands-on workshops. We deal with stinging insects, so, potentially, if someone is stung or otherwise hurt, LCBA's liability is huge and must be considered. If we are going to keep LCBA viable, we need to consider this aspect as a business – because the law would treat us as a business.

Liability and Event Insurance: Kevin shared quotes from Cross Insurance, who sent a representative to the last board meeting. To get insurance for each event as a one-off would cost around \$120 per event, but if we do not have it. If someone were to knock over the observation hive at the Fair, for instance, and had an allergic reaction, they will sue LCBE and the Fair, and then LCBA's board of directors. Members serving as LCBA mentors and visiting their mentees' home apiaries, members hosting events, and members doing swarm captures as LCBA representatives also could be at risk.

Long story short, Kevin said, we have some decisions to make. General liability coverage for the whole membership costs about \$1000 dollars a year, very expensive. Directors and Officers coverage just for board officers costs \$700 a year or so. Kevin's attorney urged that LCBA's officers need to protect themselves, given the world we live in, because their personal property could be attached in a lawsuit, plus, they would need to hire legal counsel if sued. D&O plus event insurance costs about \$1000 a year. Kevin is investigating our options and has asked multiple agents for quotes. As for how LCBA would pay for this: one option would be to increase dues in 2017 by \$10/year. Another option would be to raise funds specifically for insurance, as we do for the Youth Scholarship Program.

Kevin said that we would not take a formal vote now, but he asked for a show of hands: do members support the board's moving forward to pursue insurance coverage for the association and directors? All present raised their hands.

Discussion: Tim Weible noted that at another bee club, they were told that it is hard to prove it was your bee who stung someone; Kevin noted that even so, we would need to lawyer up to defend ourselves. Susanne added that at workshops, it would be hard for the host to assert that it was not his or her bee that did the stinging. Tim asked if our nonprofit status protects us: unfortunately not, Kevin answered. Further, in the eyes of the law, the directors are LCBA, so directors' personal assets would be on the line. Kevin talked to risk management officers for Lewis County, and though they don't require event insurance at public events like the Southwest Washington Fair, they strongly recommend it. Vahn Chamberlain asked about whether if LCBA incorporated as an LLC, it would be protected; Kevin answered that LLCs can protect some assets, but still have to carry insurance. Sandy Moore noted with an LLC, LCBA would have to pay federal and state taxes, not the case with 501c3.

Does homeowners' insurance cover liability for things like workshops? Kevin answered that if you bring up honey bees, rates go up. One's homeowners' insurance won't cover the need: further, they will not renew you if you state that you have bees. Peggy Hammer noted that the risk manager for the City of Chehalis offers a one day event type insurance for public events. Kevin said that he discussed this with Lee Coumbs re: the Fair: they offer a group insurance, and we could get that for \$120. But could get our own event insurance for the same cost as part of a larger liability policy. Susanne noted that the observation hive is the heart of our Fair display,

and that our exhibit would not have the draw without it. Cody Warren pointed out that when bees appeared at the honey tasting, all the visitors thought they had come out of the observation hive: of course they had not, but the public does not understand bees from all around scented the honey and came in – they focused on the bee source they could see.

Phil Wilson asked whether WSBA would be providing liability insurance for clubs: Peter Glover answered that it does not look feasible, since WSBA's new president has found that all local club members would have to also join WSBA as WSBA individual members (individual membership \$20, family \$25). Kevin noted that Olympia Beekeepers' Association got insurance when opening a club apiary. LCBA cannot move forward on an apiary without insurance.

Gordon Bellevue asked if LCBA now has 180 members, why raise \$ 1000 for insurance - Kevin answered that when consulting with insurance agents, we went with last year's numbers. Terrie Phillips asked what insurance would cover what/whom: D&O would cover the board, hold harmless agreements would cover workshops, and event insurance would cover public events like the Fair, but what about those on the swarm and colony list, or a mentor, and you get sued - would this cover you? Kevin answered that we don't know yet – we are hoping that the hold harmless agreement will do it, or that it can be improved to do it : he is waiting to hear back from counsel. Herb Zile asked if groups could amalgamate and save money on insurance policies: Peter said that their bylaws would have to be identical, essentially making them one club.

Kevin said that the board will make the best decision we can, and bring it back for a vote; he wanted to give members some food for thought. Kevin added that he is not here to sell insurance - it's the world we live in. Timeline: we are waiting to hear back from counsel on the hold harmless and get advice. Then we will get the insurance quotes and compare them with those we already have and see the best offer, then bring it to the membership.

Chehalis Bee Ordinance Repealed: Kevin reported on how the Chehalis ordinance prohibiting keeping honey bees within 300 feet of any habitable structure was repealed. Kevin thanked several LCBA members for their help. Peggy Hammer, who works as a staff member for the City Council, gave liaison support. Phil Wilson talked to Bob Spahr, one of the councilmen about the needs of beekeepers and the fact that one of our Youth Scholarship students from Chehalis cannot keep his bees at his home, and LCBA is reluctant to approach the Chehalis schools about the program. LCBA board members were invited to the February 22 City Council meeting: Kevin, Vice President Bob Harris, and Dan Maughan represented LCBA. There were two ordinances about bees in city limits: the council repealed the space restriction noted above, but left on the books the one that categorizes bees under “nuisance animals” to help neighbors deal with possibly irresponsible beekeepers in the future. Kevin reported that the council clearly wished to support bees and beekeepers and was impressed by LCBA's education and mentorship programs to help beekeepers keep bees safely. To see the Chronicle's coverage, visit: http://www.chronline.com/chehalis-city-council-lifts-honeybee-restrictions/article_aeb99cb4-da61-11e5-813f-832943755313.html

Education Program Update: Peter Glover reported that LCBA's apprentice class ended on March 5, and that students are sending in their final tests. Diplomas should be available at the May meeting. The Journeyman class has two more meetings before completing course work; then the 12 students need to have their hive inspections, and turn in their service points and journals for WSBA review. ***Youth Scholarship Update: see special newsletter section, below.***

Meet LCBA's 2016 Youth in Beekeeping Scholarship Students!

Thanks to everyone who donated items & bought drawing tickets for our fundraisers to equip our 2016 students.

Josiah Cowin: 2016 LCBA Youth Scholar Josiah Cowin is a 4.0 home-schooled student in Chehalis. Josiah is an avid piano player who participates in Performing Arts to Homeschoolers (PATH) & performs in recitals & competitions. Josiah loves animals & has been concerned about the plight of the honey bee: he's excited to learn how to care for bees of his own. Josiah's mentor is LCBA member & longtime beekeeper Gottfried Fritz.



Above left, LCBA 2016 Youth in Beekeeping Scholarship student, Josiah Cowin, assembles his hive boxes with an assist from mentor Gottfried Fritz (left) & father Joel (right); right, fitting those dovetails.

Sam Mittge: 2016 LCBA Youth Scholar Sam is a 5th grader from Napavine, where he is a 4.0 student in the Highly Capable program. Sam is looking forward to the challenge of being responsible for his bee colony. He's excited to learn how bee colonies work & hopes one day to sell his honey. Sam also plays piano & soccer. He's being mentored this year by LCBA Secretary Susanne Weil.



Above left, 2016 LCBA Youth Scholar Sam constructs his first hive box, a medium Langstroth super, with mentor Susanne Weil; right, Education Coordinator Peter Glover supervises as Sam assembles frames in a jig. WSBA put Sam & Peter on the cover of their March Newsletter!

LCBA T-shirts, Hats, & Patches – Update

Treasurer Rick Battin has an update for LCBA members about our logo apparel. If you'd like to buy a t-shirt or hat, please email Rick at rick.battin@gmail.com, and he will bring your gear to the next monthly meeting, where you can pay. Please help Rick's back by helping him NOT to carry that huge box back and forth every month!

Prices: Shirts are \$17 for small –XL; \$19 for 2XL; Hats are \$12; Patches are \$4.



Transfers to put on your own clothing: these cost \$9 for the 3 piece set, which includes 1 large LCBA logo, 1 small LCBA logo, and 1 little flying bee. The \$9 gets paid to LCBA: then, you get put on a list at Alderson's – Awards West. Alderson's charges an additional \$2 to iron on the transfer to a shirt purchased there, or \$3.50 if you bring in your own clothing for the transfer.

Please bee aware: these transfers can't go on clothing that is dark, like a blue or black, because the black outline just won't show up. Also, Rick tried to get the large logo on his bee suit, but due to the seam it could not be done. However, the patch can be sewn on!



2015-2016 Colony Loss and Management Survey Is Live: Take the BeeInformed.org Survey Today!

<http://26.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=BIP2016#>

“It is April 1st and that can only mean one thing at the Bee Informed Partnership – our National Loss and Management survey is LIVE! Starting now and continuing until April 30th, your responses from this survey provide invaluable information that helps us obtain a clear picture of honey bee health throughout the country and helps guide best management practices. Thank you for all the beekeepers who, for 10 years now, have taken the time to complete the Colony Loss survey. Additional appreciation goes to those beekeepers who have provided data for our Management survey for the past 5 years. Correlating management practices with colony losses have enabled us to soon release data based management plans for beekeepers in different regions of the country.

“Without the aid of the many beekeepers who participate in this survey we would never be able to obtain the results that we have received in the past and hope to continue to receive in the future. Our monofactorial results are found at our website (www.beeinformed.org) and through the years interesting trends are evident. Varroa clearly is a major issue and continues to be a major driver of colony loss – high losses correlated from untreated colonies is a result that has remained consistent from every management survey we have conducted to date. To help us continue this effort, click the link below to take the National Colony Loss and Management Survey for the 2015-2016 season:

<http://26.selectsurvey.net/beeinformed/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=BIP2016#>

“Thank you all again and we invite you to take this survey. By doing so, you are helping forward the research started 10 years ago. Best wishes for healthy colonies in 2016 from the Bee Informed Partnership team!”

The Pacific Northwest Survey of Bee Health & Beekeeping Practices is open too – see our March newsletter for details. Dr. Dewey Caron will speak at LCBA’s August 2016 meeting & bring data specific for us, so please help by participating! Click on this link:

www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/

The electronic survey should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete. There will be paper copies available at LCBA's April meeting. To see last year's report, visit:
www.pnwhoneybeesurvey.com/annual-surveys .

BEES IN THE NEWS is on vacation this month. We'll have an expanded edition in our May newsletter!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bee Splits & Woodenware Available for Sale toward end of April: Kevin Mills, Rochester, 757 376 2821, expects to have 4 or 5 splits that he will sell along with their woodenware (screened bottom board, deep box & frames, migratory cover): \$225 each including the bees.

Used Hive Equipment Available for Sale: Former LCBA member Judy Nichols has 4 complete used hive sets for sale. Each set has a screened bottom board, two deeps with frames, an inner and telescoping cover. Judy is in Winlock and you can call her at (360) 785 3512. FYI, Judy's bees swarmed and the rest of the bees gradually absconded; she has not seen evidence of disease. It is always a good idea to wash used equipment with a bleach solution, though.

Nearly-new, Never-used, Unpainted Deep Box, with Frames & Plastic Foundation & Telescoping Cover For Sale: Lin Grey in Centralia would like to get this set out of her garage, & for \$35, you can help her do it! You can call Lin at 360 880 1404.

BeeInformed.org. Citizen Science Project Wants Volunteers To Help Bees: THE P. APIUM PROJECT is testing a new honey bee probiotic. Dr. Vanessa Corby-Harris from the USDA-ARS is recruiting helpers to examine how the probiotic, *Parasaccharibacter apium* (or *P. apium*) affects a bee colony's well-being. Early results suggest that "bees supplemented with this bacterium can survive better." To read more, visit the link:

<https://beeinformed.org/2016/01/12/join-the-p-apium-project-a-citizen-science-project-to-test-out-a-new-honey-bee-probiotic/>

Western Apicultural Society Newsletters: http://groups.ucanr.org/WAS/WAS_Journal. Click on the line in the paragraph on the right as directed. If you're still getting the old issue, click on "empty cache" in your browser or "refresh" or "reload" under VIEW in your menu bar.

WSBA Newsletter: Pick up your copy online at www.wasba.org: click on "Newsletters."

That's all for now ~ take care, & bee happy! ~ Susanne Weil, LCBA Secretary
(Susanne.beekeeper@gmail.com; 360 880 8130)