

December, 2008



# BEE LINES

Regularly scheduled meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at [1305 Pine Avenue in Snohomish](#) in the Christ the King Lutheran Church building.

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## Dates to Remember

[Dec. 9: Regular December meeting and annual holiday pot luck dinner.](#)

## Regular meeting minutes

November 11, 2008 The monthly meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by president, Stan Pallo. The minutes were read and approved.

Treasures report: checking \$1217.03, savings \$835.47.

OLD BUSINESS: Jim Tunnell still has "I love Honey Bee" T-shirts for sale for \$10.00, limited sizes. ( X-L and S )

NEW BUSINESS: Election of officers was postponed until the December meeting. There was discussion about who would be willing to chair the group for the next year with encouragement and promise of support from existing officers.

The 2009 Washington-Oregon Beekeepers convention will be held in Seaside and hosted by the Oregon Beekeepers Assn. This will be the week prior to Thanksgiving and attendance is encouraged as the speakers are excellent and come from many state universities, where research is being done. Information that

came from this years convention included the fact that a lot of the foundation wax used, is contaminated and a large amount coming from China is suspect. Chemical contamination in foundation can be a slow killer of hives. Scott told about his foundation operation and said that he would plan a field trip to his hanger site so we could observe the production.

The CCD program is under funded at most research sites and our group voted to donate \$500.00 to the Washington State University research department.

Washington State University is running a program to test your hives and Stan passed around forms for field sampling.

It was suggested that we would consider a push for more donations for research at the fair next year. We feel that with the correct information we may be able to raise a good amount.

We did a hive count for our own information. The group present in November represented a total of 194 hives. Statistically, we would loose about 64 hives over winter if the percentages of estimated loss is correct.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 with reminders of the potluck in December. Items for raffle would be welcomed at this dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wirt, Secretary

### **Presidents message**

Here it is December again and all too soon at that. The Thanksgiving left overs have disappeared from the refrigerator. The sun is low in the sky (if it is visible at all) and the holiday season is upon us. It is also a time for each of us to take stock of where we are in beekeeping and ask ourselves what we want out of our hobby, side line or full time business.

Do I want to cut back, grow or stay about the same? That being done, set realistic goals and establish strategies toward attaining those goals. All of that having been considered, first and foremost, we must have healthy productive bees. Big fat queens are the order of the day. The ones that will lay their hearts out for us. The ones that can easily be found surrounded by attendants and which produce gentle, hygienic offspring capable of filling several supers. To assist them we must also do our part. Become familiar with the signs and symptoms of bee diseases and parasites. Learn a variety of control techniques for each. Implement an integrated pest management program which, at the very least, de-emphasizes use of chemicals which can produce a toxic build-up in the comb, leading to colony health problems as well as the possibility of contaminated honey.

Have your bees tested now. It will cost you nothing and will assist you with your IPM as well as the industry to determine the colony health status throughout the state and country. More information is available through the WSBA or your local association.

What about our association? As long as we have a great core group of people willing to organize and many others willing to step up and help when asked, we will be able to accomplish our primary mission, that of promoting beekeeping. To that end, we have for the third year sponsored the very successful beekeeping booth at the Evergreen State Fair. Additionally, we have attempted to keep our programs interesting, educational and relevant. We have also been providing opportunities for members and non members to discuss successes and challenges so that we can all share and benefit from that knowledge. Pretty basic stuff isn't it? But that is why most people come to bee meetings. I would like to see this philosophy carried a step farther by scheduling field days in members bee yards. I believe that one learns more quickly through the show and tell method followed by hands on with supervision, correction and an opportunity to ask questions.

A program of sponsoring FFA and/or 4-H members in beekeeping has been suggested by Donna Wirt on several occasions. It seems doable to me. If our desire is to seek the involvement of more young people, this idea should be researched and a proposal drafted.

As most should be aware of by now, the election of officers was postponed until the December meeting to allow time for members to find what is required of each of the positions and to draft the willing. The positions open are those of:

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President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Board member position currently held by  
Cindy White

### **December beekeeping**

Keep the entrances free of dead bees. This is a good time to go to beekeeper meetings and read all of the beekeeper magazines that have been stacking up all year. Repair old equipment, and assemble all the new supers and frames you will need next year. If you need permits for out yards, apply for them now.

### ***January Beekeeping***

Make or order spare hives and other equipment required for the next season. See that hive entrances are kept free of dead bees. Note the amount of bee loss in your apiary note book. Order queens and package bees now to avoid the last minute rush.

### **December meeting agenda**

Call to order and welcome:

Introductions:

Reading of the last meeting minutes:

Treasurers report:

Old business:

New business:

1. Election of officers.

### Dinner:

Our annual holiday pot luck dinner will be held at our usual meeting location, day and time, but in the Fellowship Hall which is just across from our normal meeting room. All members and their family and friends are welcome. The association will provide utensils and soda. This will be a true pot luck, so bring whatever you wish. There is a microwave and range available to reheat dishes. Anyone having extra door prize or inventory items they wish to donate, please bring them that evening.

President: Stan Pallo (360)793-1533  
Vice President: Linzy and Marci Johnson  
(360)563-3044  
Secretary: Donna Wirt (425)252-6925  
Treasurer: John Bryant (425)334-8575  
Board Member: Jim Tunnell (360)568-7451  
Board member: Scott Jenrich (360)658-1198  
Board Member: Cindy White 360)563-2605