

The Cowichan Buzz....



BUSINESS NAME

Volume 1, Issue 2

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2021

Message from the President, Ian Low



Beekeeping is an activity that could be a hobby, a job, an agricultural pursuit, or a commercial endeavour. Beekeeping has a steep learning curve but don't let that scare you. Join a club, get support and share your learning!

Equipment: As a rule, new equipment is what beginning beekeepers need. New equipment means you are buying hive parts from a local vendor and assembling the equipment. Please remember building hive equipment requires time to assemble before receiving the bees. If you are considering second-hand equipment, the equipment must come with inspection papers from the local bee inspector. Many seasoned beekeepers don't use second-hand equipment because the risk of diseased equipment is costly.

CALLING ALL...

While Covid 19 will continue to make things difficult, we are calling on all members who would like to contribute to the club and/or to this newsletter. Here are some ideas, and please, you may have more:

WHY JOIN THE COWICHAN BEEKEEPERS?

Acquiring Bees: Hives need time to build up before winter. Imported stock is often available in March and April, however, this bee stock is often from the Southern hemisphere, and arrives for our spring. Effectively imported bee stock miss a winter cycle and work through two summers in a row, which can potentially lead to wintering issues. Local stock produced from local hives is more likely to be acclimated and survive our local winters, however, surviving a winter for any hive, is no guarantee. Local bees aren't often available until mid May early June, which may result in "missing out" on an early maple honey flow if the early weather is warm and dry.

Resources and Personal Knowledge: Even the most experienced and knowledgeable beekeepers belong to clubs and organizations to keep plugged into the experiences and knowledge of others. You don't need to have bees to join a club. Sometimes it is much better to learn about bees before getting bees because there are a lot of things to consider. Clubs have people with diverse skills and experiences. Consider joining the Cowichan Beekeepers to learn and contribute more to your knowledge and community.

- Photographer for the club or for people to submit their photos
- Honey recipe of the month
- "What's blooming now?" articles for this newsletter
- Helpful hints or suggestions

tribute more to your knowledge and community.

Beekeeping is learning about bees and the paying more attention to the environment around us.

- Are there bees already where I want to put bees?
- How much forage does a hive need to be healthy?
- When do the major nectar flows occur?
- What will I do when the nectar flow is off?
- What is my mite treatment plan?
- Does the land zoning allow for bekeeping?
- Honeybees are livestock and require time and care
- Honeybees need treatments/manipulations to help them flourish.
- Send in your questions to "Ask a beekeeper"
- Ideas for more social activities
- Book suggestions
- Field Day suggestions

MEETINGS

Held the 3rd Wednesday of the month
 @ the HUB
 2375 Koksilah Road
 Doors open 6:30 PM
 and/or by Zoom
 Covid dependent

JANUARY MEETING — JAN 20

FEBRUARY MEETING — FEB 17

BY ZOOM ONLY

At this point it is uncertain if we will be able to meet in person and if so, in what numbers. If we are able to meet but are limited by numbers, we will ask members to RSVSP if they plan to attend in person.

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REGISTRATIONS

We are currently working on alternative ways in which to make your payments for registrations.

At present, Etransfers can be accepted at Cowichanbeekeepers@gmail.com or by mailing a cheque (please do not mail cash) to:

Cowichan Beekeepers
PO Box 413
Duncan, BC
V9L 1P0.

Alternatively, when able to meet, they can be made in person.

A family registration consists of, within a household, 2 adults and minor children \$32.00 and a single membership \$20.00

Website online forms and registration remain being looked into.

For more registration info email Cowichan Beekeepers

BC AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING

This course is offered for free. It covers bee biology, beekeeping management, disease diagnosis and controls. It is presented in 4 webinar sessions on consecutive Saturday mornings 9-11:30 am. Prior to each lesson you will receive an email with suggested reading. If you wish to be notified with course details submit an email with your name, email, and location to: Paulvanwestendorp@gov.bc.ca or Mariejulie.Hughes@gov.bc.ca



February

WEST COAST SEED FUNDRAISER

Our West Coast Seed Fundraiser is underway now until February 17th. Your orders are expected to arrive 7-10 days following.

How to order online: go to fundraising.westcoastseeds.com

Choose Cowichan Beekeepers from the drop down menu.

Now you have a choice:

1. Make your order and payment online
 2. Complete a fillable PDF form. Print the form and return it with your Etransfer to cowichanbeekeepers@gmail.com or
 3. send form and cheque to the club mailing address.
- Any questions can be sent to: vpcowichanbeekeepers@gmail.com



BEEKEEPERS CHECKLIST

- Some beekeepers may choose to manage varroa mites by using oxalic acid at this time of the year. Either the vapor or dribble method can be used depending on daytime temperatures. Usually 10 C or above when bees have broken cluster
- Check the weight of the hive to ensure adequate food stores. If light, feed fondant or sugar
- Catch up on BeeScene, scientific beekeeping periodicals and podcasts. Beware of misinformation online.
- It is time to order equipment and bees for the coming year.
- Feeding Pollen may start as early as February for some micro climates.
- Build or buy new equipment
- Register for online webinar course



EDUCATIONAL LINKS

Last month, the suggested links for beginners were how to light your smoker, opening and inspecting a hive. But we will backtrack to the very beginning and give links to equipment and where to place your hive and how you might install your nuc.

These links are from the **University of Guelph in Ontario** so bear in mind legislative rules may differ from here.

Hive Equipment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbG7uFoS-10>

Where to Locate your Hive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5m0Xm1DChyl>

Installing your Nuc

[youtube.com/watch?v=dbG7uFoS-10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbG7uFoS-10)

Building Comb

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8j5UExrg2o>

If you have overwintered your hives these links may be of interest to you:

Dealing with Deadouts

Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WL80btRRvq4>

Part 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS0QpyT_m5U

Dealing with Varroa Mites

Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5n9TDXhtr1g>

Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k95CrnTSTCY>

From the National Honey Show

Why Genetics are Important to the Beekeeper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2sjccgWZcY>

Honey Bee Pests

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBAScXbUQ2w>

ASK A BEEKEEPER... answered by **Larry Lindahl**

Why do I have so many dead bees at the entrance to my hive? Answer: What time of year is it? Is the parent hive alive or dead?

Assuming hive is alive— In winter—just old bees dying off and are being dragged out of the hive or they fly out on a sunny day but day is cold and unable to make it back to the hive. In summer — chronic paralysis virus or pesticide poisoning

How do I know when there is a nectar flow happening?

Answer: Obviously lots of pollen coming in. Lots of uncapped nectar in the cells of the frames, will splash out when frame is shaken. An obvious weight gain in the hive. A lovely aromatic scent coming from the hive. A pleasant hum from the hive and your invasion is being ignored.

What is better, 1 brood box or 2 and why?

Answer: This is the beekeepers choice from experience—both do work well. For the novice I would recommend a 2 deep or 3 medium box hive for the brood chamber for ease of management. For the more experienced beekeeper he/she can choose to use a single deep, but take note, it does require much more intensive management.

LOOKING AHEAD...still

A budget is going to be presented at the February meeting. We want a budget as it is, in most cases, required when applying for funding or grants.

It was felt January was too short a notice for members to get their renewals paid if we did not have an easy method for payment, therefore, we are looking into payment

online at the website, however until then, renewals can easily be done by an e-transfer to

cowichanbeekeepers@gmail.com

Due to the date change for voting on the budget our January agenda will now discuss bee equipment.

February's planned meeting will be a discussion with the bee inspector followed by a

business meeting where we will be voting on a budget. To be eligible to vote you need to be a member in good standing with your dues paid up.

We are striving to put together a calendar full of learning and fun, even if it has to be at a distance.

NOT A MEMBER?

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND 2 MEETINGS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND OUR ZOOM MEETINGS

EMAIL YOUR REQUEST TO COWICHANBEEKEEPERS@GMAIL.COM

Our Life Members

Larry Lindahl

Jacques Marc

Jan Hardie

Steve Mitchell

Leila Long

Eric Jones

“TO BE ELIGIBLE

TO VOTE YOU

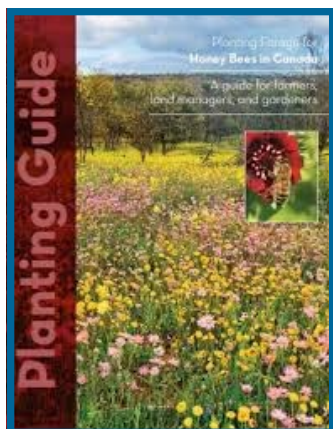
NEED TO BE A

MEMBER IN

GOOD

STANDING”

The Cowichan Buzz....



https://honeycouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Hivelights_August-

WHAT'S BLOOMING NOW?

Western Hazelnut: A common pacific northwest native that blooms in February is the Western Hazelnut (or Filbert). This is one of the earliest bloomers in the area and produces a good amount of pollen from "male" blooms called catkins. Being a native plant these trees do well in full sun or part shade and grow very long roots that enables them to handle our dry summers extremely well.

Crocus: Appearing at the end of winter Crocus blooms are a sign that spring is on the way and are an excellent pollen food source. They are easy to grow .

Winter Heather: This plant can add color and versatility to your winter gardens as well as supply food for pollinators on those occasional nice winter days. Heather comes in several colors and depending on the variety can grow as a ground-cover or upright in mounds. They do particularly well in rock gardens with acidic soils and like full sun but can tolerate some shade.

Winter Camellia: One source of that winter pollen coming into the hives is from the Winter Blooming Camellia. Finding one in the heart of winter must be like winning the bee-lotto with their large rain resistant flowers and sweet scent.

Viburnum tinus (Laurustinus): An evergreen shrub native to the Mediterranean with a long winter blooming period that starts in November and can last until late spring. They produce slightly fragrant clusters of white and light pink flowers that stand out against their dark glossy green leaves.

Hellebore: While there aren't many pollen sources available in January there are a few non natives planted in abundance around the city to provide food for the girls on those occasional nice days.

Mahonia: Oregon Grape (Mahonia) is an attractive evergreen shrub with holly like leaves is a native to the northwest.

WORD JUMBLE

THE 5 P'S ENDANGERING THE HONEYBEE



S E S P A T A R I

A O T P S E H N G

R A D S O R T E P

C E P D E I T S I S

O P O R T O R T N U N I

_____ O _____

2 WDS

Answer can be found by watching last months newsletter intermediate video suggestion

DID YOU KNOW..

THERE ARE CLUB T-SHIRTS

AVAILABLE FOR SALE

PRICE \$20

CONTACT CLUB FOR MORE INFO

EPIGENETICS

Epigenetics is the study of how behaviors and environment can cause changes that affect the way genes work. Unlike genetic changes, **epigenetic** changes are reversible and do not change your DNA sequence, but they can change how your body reads a DNA sequence.

The honey bee is a perfect example of epigenetics.

The DNA of a queen bee and a worker bee is the same. They have the same equal start as 2 eggs, however, thru diet, they will develop differently, resulting in a queen and a worker.

The queen's production of

pheromones controls the hive, including a pheromone that suppresses the worker's ability to lay eggs. As a queen ages and her production of pheromones decreases it enables workers to develop and start laying eggs. Although these eggs are unfertilized resulting in drones.

HOW MUCH NECTAR WILL IT PRODUCE?

You may find the following link useful in deciding what to plant for your honeybees.

It is a list of the North American Nectar sources for honeybees.

It will tell you the lbs of honey per acre from different sources.

Also, included are the blooming times of these trees, shrubs and flowers and vegetables.

It has much useful information to the beekeeper.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Northern_American_nectar_sources_for_honey_bees



Honeybee on an apricot blossom

Did you know that a drone has no father but only a grandfather?

Worker and queen bees have 16 pairs of chromosomes but drones have only one pair since they are produced from an unfertilized egg. They are their mother's son!

OUR LIBRARY

Cowichan Beekeepers has a library with books you have access to. These books are listed online at

Cowichanbeekeepers.ca

If you find something of interest to yourself please email Marie at

cowichanbeekeepers@gmail.com

Arrangements will be made for pick up.

Every Beekeeper should have their own copy of:



Another good recommendation:



WHAT DO

YOU THINK

OF
HAVING
A
PHOTO

CONTEST?

RECIPES

POLLEN PATTIES

2.8 lbs pro sweet syrup or own honey

1.5 lbs ultra bee

0.4 lbs sugar

- using a drill with a paint paddle in a bucket
- Warm syrup 100-120

- Add sugar to the syrup and lastly the ultra bee
- Parchment paper is best to prevent drying

Recipe makes about 5 lbs

To make 50 lbs/patties requires about 20 lbs of ultra bee

FEEDBACK

What are your favourite parts of the newsletter. What would you like to see more of? What could you do without?

Send your feedback to:
vpcowichanbeekeepers@gmail.com



The Cowichan Beekeeping Buzz...

2020 EXECUTIVE

President.....Jan Low

Vice PresidentMarie Cairns

Secretary... Carol Newington

Treasurer.....Cindy Liboiron

Directors:

Dan Graham

Blair Herbert

Bruce Cairns

You can reach your executive
thru cowichanbeekeepers.ca

Vision Statement

To provide a safe, respectful environment for learning, and sharing common interest in beekeeping related practices for the purposes of acting in the interest of bee health, bee forage, competent beekeeping and a healthy environment.



Trying a new idea this year to keep our hives dry. While they did droop with the heavy snow, they popped right back up once the snow was removed.

So far they have done a good job of keeping them dry and should help shade them from the summer heat.

photo Marie Cairns

The Bee is more
honoured than
other animals,
not
because she
labours, but
because she
labours
for others.

St. John Chrysostom

BEE FUN

#1

Fermented honey, known as Mead, is the most ancient fermented beverage. The term "honey moon" originated with the Norse practice of consuming large quantities of Mead during the first month of a marriage.

#2

The Honey bee's wings stroke 11,400 times per minute, thus making their distinctive buzz.

#3

Honey bees must consume about 17-20 pounds of honey to be able to biochemically produce each pound of beeswax

#4

The honey bee is the only insect that produces food eaten by man.

#5

The bee's brain is oval in shape and only about the size of a sesame seed.

#6

Bees maintain a temperature of 92-93 degrees Fahrenheit in their central brood nest regardless of whether the outside temperature is 110 or -40 degrees.

#7

Honey is the only food that includes all the substances necessary to sustain life, including enzymes, vitamins, minerals, and water.