



## Minutes PCBA Board Retreat December 15, 2014

A retreat for the Board of Directors of the Pierce County Beekeepers Association was held Monday, Dec 15, 2014 at the home of Franclyn Heinecke, president-elect.

Present were 2015 Board members: Renzy Davenport, Michael DeAngelo, Larry Golden, Jeff Jones, Marge Pearson, Alisa Shorey, and Franclyn Heinecke

**Board members reviewed 2014 accomplishments for PCBA** and the people who made things happen. The summary is noted below.

**Board members reviewed results of the PCBA 2015 Topics Survey**, and began discussing programs and speakers to cover topics that members want. A summary of the survey results is noted below. Marge will follow-up on suggestions. Topics discussed were:

**February** – “Treatment Free” – what it means, with Bob Smith from Olympia and a panel of PCBA beekeepers – Alisa Shorey, Harvard Robbins, Jim McCaig, Alicia Halbert, with Michael DeAngelo moderating the panel.

**March** – Mason Bees with Dave Hunter and focus on pollinators

**April** – Managing hives for Optimal Honey Production with Morris Ostrofsky from Oregon. Covering seasonal management techniques and other methods for robust colonies able to produce a lot of honey.

**May** – peak forage flows with Thomas Mani from Olympia.

**July** – queen rearing with Sue Cobey for a Saturday workshop and someone to talk about queen bee biology at the general meeting. Maybe Dewey Caron from Oregon or Brandon Hopkins from WSU.

**Board members discussed the January meeting** – Hives in the ‘Hood and viewed a welcome DVD that Franclyn developed for the January meeting.

### **PCBA Highlights 2014**

Alisa Shorey was named the Washington State Beekeeper of the Year by WSBA! Among other contributions at the state and local level, Alisa was instrumental in organizing four consecutive statewide conferences that reached many beekeepers and made a positive contribution to WSBA.

Franclyn Heinecke was appointed to serve on the statewide Honey Bee Work Group. The legislature directed the Dept. of Agriculture to convene this work group to address challenges facing beekeepers in Washington and to offer solutions. The report is now final and being delivered to the legislature.

Suwamee Robbins was selected to receive the PCBA Bob Stump Award for her continued work and energy to provide bees, supplies, education, information and resources to new and

experienced beekeepers. Suwamee is married to Harvard Robbins, PCBA member with perhaps more years keeping bees than anyone else in Pierce County.

## **PCBA Activities and Volunteers in 2014**

501 (c)3 Non-profit status – Michael DeAngelo

Honey House Renovations and WSU Campus Adviser– John Thomas

Our thanks to WSU Campus staff who helped John with the renovations.

Extractor rentals – Bob Pietila, John Thomas

Funds raised through the spring fair, November auction and raffle – Alisa Shorey,

John Timmons, Larry Golden, Marge Pearson, Ginger Carter, Sherri Thomas

And members who donated to the raffle and auction

Revised website – Becky Sundstrom, Larry Golden, Michael DeAngelo

Website – James Getty, Kim Kapis

Online payments / use of credit cards – Michael DeAngelo, Larry Golden, John Thomas

Membership database – Larry Golden

Mother Earth Fair – Alisa Shorey

Speaker logistics – Renzy Davenport

Cedar Creek Inmate apprentice certification – Renzy Davenport

Queen rearing program – Jeff Jones

Classes and certifications – Louis Matej, Renzy Davenport, Jim Erickson, James Getty,

Kim Kapis

Student study grant – Bob Pietila, Jim Erickson, Lillian Allred

Summer picnic and extraction party – Charles Carter, Ginger Carter, Laurence Jungers

PCBA panel presenters – Harvard Robbins, Dennis Carlson, Alicia Halbert,

Franclyn Heinecke, Renzy Davenport, Kris Urv-Wong

Honey Queen Program – Kris Urv-Wong, Bob Pietila, Sarah Jackson, Queen Elizabeth Kroker

National Honey Princess Visit –Kris Urv-Wong, Bob Pietila

Award and recognition plaques – Bob Pietila

Managing the apiary – Gary Moore, Jeff Jones, Susan Young Crane, Jason Anderson

Swarm coordination – Jeff Jones

Mentoring – Susan Young Crane, Ernie Stevenson, Larry Golden

Nominations and elections – Bob Pietila

Library – Hannah Carter, Charlie Carter

PCBA resources and logistics – Bob Pietila, Renzy Davenport, Charlie Carter

Coordination of spring and fall fair staffing – Alisa Shorey

Honey Show – Bob Bennett; judges Kris Urv-Wong, Franclyn Heinecke

Fall fair coordination assistance – Alisa Shorey, Gary Moore, Jim Erickson, Andy Matelich

PCBA members who helped with set-up and tear-down

Just about everyone in PCBA for helping to staff the booth

And members from Puget Sound and Olympia Beekeepers who helped staff the booth

Queen bees for the fair – Andy Matelich

Bees for the fair – Bob Bennett

Newsletters – Ginger Carter, Mike Konschuh, and newsletter contributors

Hospitality – Charlie Carter, Laurence Jungers

Christmas party organization – Lisa Garrett, Larry Warwick, with music by Queen Elizabeth

Kroker

*“Beekeeping is just about the funnest hobby I have ever had!”  
That had to be the favorite comment made on the recent PCBA member survey.*

*PCBA beekeepers want to help out the bee population, want improved garden pollination, and want to get honey for their own use, as gifts, or for an income. Some people like the mental challenge and learning about the science behind bees.*

*Our members have an interest in nature, and enjoy learning. They find honeybees and the colony to be “fascinating.” They like to share success stories and get suggestions from other beekeepers. They like the speakers who visit the club, and want to learn in a friendly environment. They like sharing a common interest and learning from others. They want to have more time to get to know other beekeepers in the club, more hands-on workshops, more time in smaller groups, and less time dealing with the “business end” of the club.*



**We had 67 responses, which is a very good number.**

80% have been keeping bees for 5 years or less.

7.5% have kept bees 6 – 10 years

3% have kept bees 11-20 years

9% (6 people) have kept bees 20+ years

Most members have five hives or fewer – 72%.

11% have 6 - 10 hives

7.5% have 11 - 20 hives

3% have 21 - 100 hives

One respondent has more than 100 hives

82% use Langstroth 10-frame hive configurations

5 responders (8%) use 8-frame

5 responders (8%) have top bar

1 has Warre

Why respondents keep bees - in priority order:

- Help bees / help the environment / be active with nature
- For honey or other hive products / to make some money
- To have fun
- To help pollinate their gardens

What they like best about PCBA meetings:

- Learn / get help / speakers / information
- Meet other beekeepers / share a common interest
- Friendship / networking / events and activities

What improvements they want:

- More hands-on training / Saturday sessions / field days / tours
- Less "business" time in the meetings
- Improvements to the journeyman program
- More member interaction and socializing
- Special topics - top bar hives / latest scientific research

Priority topics members want to learn about.

- **Tied as the top topics:**
- Healthy colonies without chemicals
- Northwest over-wintering techniques
- Feeding bees – when, why, what
- Apiary inspections
- Forage – peak flows
- Seasonal management - swarms