

Cowichan Beekeepers
www.cowichanbeekeepers.ca
June 16th 2021 General Meeting Agenda (3rd Wednesday)

Location: Meeting on Zoom. (Click on the link below to join the meeting)
<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/4831679400?pwd=a0RYTnQ4bXNVUDdKeW1lWk5saWV1dz09>

Do not login more than 5mins before the listed time. We do not pay for zoom. If you are not let into the zoom meeting within 5 mins, close zoom and try to connect again. Our zoom sessions are now limited to 40 mins (a limitation of the free zoom). During the middle of the zoom meeting session, you are able to login at any time.

Times: **Zoom Session 1:** 6:30 – 7:10 pm Beekeeping techniques Q&A (**NO AGENDA**)
Zoom Session 2: 7:10 – 7:50 pm

Session 2: Agenda

Brief update: Bee BC Grant timeline – (Leader: Ian Low)

1. www.cowichanbeekeepers.ca website update explanation

2. **Equipment purchased with \$5000 Bee BC Grant :** funding aimed at the grant objectives.
1 dissection kit, 10 pair M/L dish gloves (20 total), wireless digital Microscope(50X-1000X), 30 bee jackets (light use), Full Range of colour Bee marking pens, 10X macro phone camera lens 75mm for clip on mobile phone lens, Digital Binocular Microscope with 3MP Camera (shipping is delayed), Digital WiFi Microscope Camera - MOTICAM X3, Dual View Corded LED Microscope - S02-0104C, Dual Mag. Stereo Microscope (1X&3X) - S02-0202B, Dual Mag. Stereo Microscope (2X&4X) - 453TBL-10-LED.

** Funding is aimed at Bee health. Study of mites, how they travel, and Nosema.

3. **Study of the Social Nature of Honeybee Drones**

- Picking up and painting drones starting May
- we colour drones to track drone movement between hives within an apiary and between apiaries .
- So far just South Cowichan (4 apiaries).
- This is a great way to learn about identifying and review what is in a hive.

Interested? Text or phone 250 709-1661 (Ian Low cell)

4. **Future dates: June 26th Day of Honeybee**

- Learning sessions
- Cowichan Beekeepers at Duncan Market with observation hive and pamphlets

July

- no meeting

August 18th Meeting @ Hub

- Preparing hives for successful wintering.
- Honey Contest Interest? and Expectations ?
- Honeybee defense techniques against wasps

September 15th Meeting @ Hub

- Preparing for honey contest
- Nosema and successful wintering

October 20th Meeting @ Hub

- Elections
- honey contest and presentation

November 17th Potluck @ Hub

- Socialize with beekeeping community
- Making connections and learning

January 19th

- First meeting of 2022 year

5. Executive officer reports on projects and plans going forward.

Bee Health Target areas Topics:

- A. Topic – Backyard beekeeping: How to be a good neighbour, for backyard beekeepers and their neighbours.
- B. Topic – Landowners & Bees: What I can do to help native pollinators and honeybees make my land flourish, for prospective bee buyers, landowners, farmers and gardeners.
- C. Topic—Bees and the Microscopic World (Mites and Nosema): The almost “invisible” health challenges facing bees for prospective bee buyers, and science enthusiasts about the insect world (Integrated pest management and treatment options).
- D. Topic—Bee Buyers and Bee Sellers:
- E. Topic—Insects, invasive insects, and domesticated bees in my backyard: Identifying bees, wasps and insects in my backyard in full colour photo.
- F. Topic— “What I need to do when I want to buy, sell, or move equipment.”

** Photographers, testimonials, ideas and writing for the website NEEDED! Use of purchased Bee BC project equipment will be tied to the mentorship program, and school aged students.

Get involved: (what to bring—all optional): (First meeting of year/season)

- **Bring yourself: First 2 meetings, no membership required. Come and check us out!**
 - * single memberships are \$20 and \$32 for family memberships
- **Your wonder:** Learn about Environment/Bees/Plants?
Beekeeping, what you might be getting yourself into? Pluses and Minuses.
- **Your Pictures:** What went wrong? What I wonder? What I want to know? (trouble shoot/help/explain).

Mentorship Program – Contact Marie (vpcowichanbeekeepers@gmail.com)

- Larry Lindolh advisor to the mentors
- Mentees asked to take the Introduction to Beekeeping course available for free
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-production/bees/bee-courses>
- This mentor program is for “If a beginner has a problem” – this is local contact
- Hands on experience
- Use the tool this way or...

Other: -- contact Carol (cowichanbeekeepers@gmail.com)

- Budget/Finances and minutes are located on our website in the membership portal
- The city of Duncan is working toward being recognized as bee city.
- QMS and CVOLC (old Duncan Elementary(Public school: Cowichan Valley open learning)—worked with the green community making gardens for the bees. Carol Newington is looking after QMS beehive.