

## Beekeeping Facility of the Year

The Washington State Beekeepers Association wants to recognize one Washington State Correctional Facility for their exemplary beekeeping education program. The beekeeping facility of the year will have demonstrated dedication to beekeeping education, good beekeeping practices, and a strong beekeeping community.

**To nominate your facility, work as a group and with your liaison to write a one-page summary describing the beekeeping program at your facility and your beekeeping work (success, challenges, etc.) over the past year. Please also respond to the questions below.**

Facility Liaison Staff Name and Email: Zoolkoski, Dan T. (DOC) Kempton, Lara E. (DOC) Muriah Albin

Partner Beekeeping Organization or Volunteer Sponsor: WASBA and West Sound Beekeepers, and Evergreen State College, WCCW TCC Horticulture program, WCCW TCC Technical Design class

Number of Beginning Beekeeping Classes in 2024: 22  
participants

Number of Apprentice Beekeeping Classes in 2024: 7  
Participant

Number of Journeyman Classes in 2024: 4 Participants, and 2  
Staff

Number of Hives in Spring 2024: 2 hives died in early spring and had two NUCs installed provided by SPP Evergreen State College

Number of Hives heading into Fall 2023 (if changed from Spring 2024 please describe why):

We started with 8 hives going into Winter. Two hives transferred from Larch Correction Center and two from WCCW. Caught 4 Swarms during the year with our swarm catching team.

Did you host/participate in any special beekeeping programs, events, or educational activities this year? If so, please describe:

- Swarm catching practice event for staff and volunteer beekeepers.
- Honey collection at WCCW
- Hive cleanup day
- 10 hive total clean up, sand and paint hive refurbishment days
  - Participants learned to use tools, painting equipment, and hive tools.
  - Participants learned to build frames, and boxes.
- Classes on training on WHY Traps, Wasp, Yellow Jacket and Hornets and other predators
- Inspected and treated class on Hive Beetle
- Apprentices and Journeyman train and lead hive inspections, installs and trainings.
- Beginners had hands on training each session.
- Training on a Lyson Solar Wax Melter
- Two days on training on using the Solar Wax Melter
- Hosted beginner, apprentice and Journeyman, supported by Master Beekeeper Sandra Fanara
- NUC install class. Journeyman's and apprentice led program.
- Participants planned the program year and hive management as a team.
- Trained new officers on Beekeeping program.
- Orientation class was held for new students.
- Journeyman Study group for 5 weeks.
- Apprentice Study group for 3 weeks.
- Hosted online class with community beekeepers on Winterizing, hive maintenance and employment opportunities.
- United with the TCC horticulture program through planning planting of honeybee friendly plants
- Partnered with TCC Technical design program for creating a digital image for the WCCW beekeeping program.
- Online training videos – biology, anatomy, flowers, evolution of the honeybee, honey harvesting, wax melting practices, honey storage practices
- Started honey bank storage with freezer provided by Evergreen College SPP program.
- Created Mission Statement

- Accommodates and encourages ADA and different abled individuals to participate in program. There is always inclusion and respect.

**Participant feedback about WCCW Beekeeping program:**

“It is life changing. It made an unbearable place bearable. It changed my perspective to be grateful to all the surroundings and people and honeybees in the program. It has put a new light and perspective on the little things to not be things. This program provides a feeling of coming full circle with giving back to the environment through supporting the most important workers ever. IT helped breath life back into me. I learned how breath life back to them. It has been a beautiful full circle experience. It is my light of the week as a Tuesday Beekeeping. This brought my education, horticulture, environment studies and I can take this forward for a degree in entomology.”

“This application of the program is for us. Ms. Albin, Mr. Z, and Ms. Kempton have been great help, she is facilitator, it is our program. We make big choices on the honeybee care and program direction. This gives us control that we do not usually get. We can literally give life to an entire species and be needed still. To be that necessary and noticed again gives us hope that this is not the end for us. I can go home and say that I am not just a felon. I am not just an incarcerated person. I can say I can care of honeybees and others.”

“Participating in the bee program. I have developed a passion for honeybees. Learning about their complex anatomy, hive structures, and contribution to life. Their eusocial culture is inspiring. I see them I want to protect them. I want to make sure that they are safe, in return they help me be more mindful and aware of myself.”

“I like food, and we rely on our honeybees, because we need them to pollinate 70% of our crops. It is an amazing when you hold a frame of honeybees in your hands. I am in a wheelchair and all the beekeepers have been there to help and assist. I have done this for years. I appreciated being part of the program.”

“They are an affirmation as a part of the circle of life and with out them we would not survive or thrive with out them. They thoroughly command attention and

respect for yourself and them. If you are not attuned to your own rhythm, you will possibly disrupt their life in a negative way. This reiterates that change is possible in all ways possible. I have positively changed due to program life matters; my reactions will affect my surroundings. If a queen does not take care of her colony it dies.”

**Staff feedback:**

“I have served as a staff liaison for 4 incredible years. I am grateful for the opportunity, knowledge and teams work with the population, staff, leadership, Evergreen State College SPP Staff, Kitchen Staff, maintenance, Warehouse, custody staff, WASBA staff, and West Sound Beekeeper Master Beekeeper Sandra Fanara. I am grateful for providing a place for participants to be heard, to learn and to do. This hands-on education has changed lives, behaviors for the better, peoples mental health, and created empowerment. These programs create positive change by letting the participants empower themselves and learn how to work together as strong and capable individuals. Thank you for the opportunity.”