

September 15, 2024

To the Washington State Beekeepers Association:

I nominate Tim Ade for 2024 Beekeeper of the Year.

Tim Ade has kept bees for more than 17 years, but he has been much more than just a beekeeper in those years. He has been a bee ambassador since the very beginning. His beginning with bees started Christmas 2006, when his family planned their Christmas giving to include experiences instead of just things. Tim and his father-in-law received beekeeping classes and started together an adventure that would end up involving the whole family. When taking that first class, Tim's instructor was Tim Buehler from Snohomish. Joining the beekeeping club was free with the Apprentice class, so Tim started attending the Northwest District Beekeepers Association (NWDBA) monthly meetings. He soon became a board member and a volunteer for mentoring, fundraising and whatever else would help the club.

Tim has been doing all things beekeeper since early on in his beekeeping journey. In his early years he said yes to anyone needing a swarm to be collected from small to large, even doing a cutout as a favor to someone who was in the middle of a roof replacement and needed the bees gone. After all, "you can never have too many bees," as Tim says. His wife Debbie says that when a swarm was too large to fit in the box available, Tim just put it in some netting inside the car and drove home. That's what real beekeepers do, right?

If a list could be made of all the people Tim has mentored or given a chance to see or experience honeybees up close, it would be in the 1000s. Through the years he has shown the beekeeping process to homeschool groups in his backyard, mentored beekeepers in their backyards, set up beehives at other people's homes, and he has even established a relationship with the Stevens Creek Elementary School, providing a hive for observation during the school year. Just as anyone around Tim becomes more interested and involved with bees in some way, his family gets drawn into what he is contributing to beekeeping at large. His wife Debbie Ade joins him sometimes in the hives and helps and supports his community beekeeping as well; for example, becoming newsletter editor for a few years for the NWDBA, the first club he joined.

Nowadays, at the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe, Tim is the Superintendent of the Honey Exhibit since 2017 & coordinates the Beekeeping Display in the Agricultural Outdoor Area, also since 2017. Each year his family and friends support him by helping design and set up an indoor honey display with the current year's fair theme to showcase the public's entries and awards earned, as well as volunteering hours during the fair. As Honey Superintendent, he trains several beekeepers each year how to judge open class beekeeping-related entries by the Danish Method of judging. This includes judging honey, wax, and pollen. As always, he patiently talks with and explains the topic of bees and honey with his helpers and the public.

However, this is not Tim's most noteworthy contribution to the Fair. No, that is reserved for his fair time doing open hive demos at the Bee Tent. Several times per day at the fair, Tim enters a mesh tent in which he has placed a beehive for the duration of the fair. He opens the hive and shows the crowd that gathers outside around the mesh for each presentation, how to handle bees bare-handed. The wonderful thing about these presentations is that Tim never implies that he is a better beekeeper than those of us who do not work bees bare-handed, although that may in fact be the case.

Tim is a bee ambassador everywhere he goes. Even customers at the two UPS stores at which he and his family own and work in Snohomish and at Smoky Point can't avoid learning about bees from someone so quietly passionate about bees.

Between his work, volunteering in the greater beekeeping community and supervising beekeeping displays at the fair, Tim is worthy of the title Beekeeper of the Year.

Sincerely,



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